

DISCOVERY



The Development of Combat Power and Efficiency

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Through the Many Facets of Aerospace Medicine

Air Force exceeds 2002 recruiting goal

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Air Force Recruiting Service officials have reported completing the most successful recruiting year in almost two decades.

Now, Air Force officials have renewed their fight to recruit enlisted airmen, doctors, nurses and engineers to fill critical positions in fiscal 2003.

The Air Force achieved 102 percent of its fiscal 2002 enlisted recruiting goal, bringing a total of 37,967 airmen to Air Force active duty. The goal was 37,283.

Almost 99 percent of those enlisting this year are high school graduates and many have college credit.

"We had a phenomenal year for enlisted recruiting," said Brig. Gen. Edward Rice Jr., commander of Air Force Recruiting Service.

"Our front-line recruiters worked hard to recruit some of the most highly qualified young men and women this great country has to offer."

Rice attributed the recruiting success this year to several specific factors.

"We increased the number of Air Force recruiters, offered enlistment bonuses and continued to aggressively market and advertise the Air Force to America's youth,"

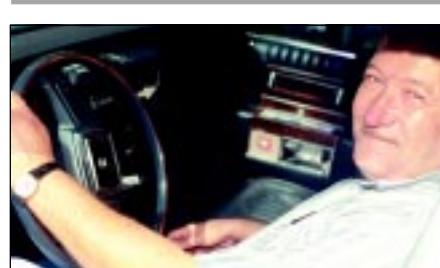
See Recruiting, Page 5

INSIDE



Brooks' Special Emphasis Program training seminar

Page
6



An inside look:
Brooks' limo man

Page
19



Courtesy photo

Who let the "doggon" ghosts out?

While these ghostly apparitions quietly begged for their Halloween treats, children at Brooks happily knocked on doors for their "trick-or-treats." Other Halloween activities

on base included a costume contest sponsored by the Youth Center. Contest results will be published in the Nov. 15 issue of Discovery.

Brooks City-Base makes history, becomes national model as first federal 'reuse facility'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks City-base made U.S. environmental history Oct. 25 when the Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality issued the first federal "reuse facility certificate" in the nation.

The designation was officially made during a signing ceremony at Hangar 9 in which a "ready for reuse" certificate was presented to the U.S. Air Force and Brooks Development Authority. The certificate, the first issued in Texas and first for a federal facility nationally, verifies that all environmental conditions have been met for the anticipated future development of Brooks City-Base as a technology and business park.

"Brooks is a shining example of a collaborative approach to environmental evaluation and cleanup. In only two years, institutional controls and corrective management were made on 64 solid waste management sites located on 1,300 acres," said Carl Edlund, Planning and Permitting Division director for the EPA's Region 6.

This milestone event was achieved through the joint efforts of local, state

“ This ready for reuse determination opens new doors for the utilization of vacant land, collaboration with private industry and academia to spawn economic development and enhance the quality of research. ”

Dr. Ata-Ur-Rahman
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

and federal agencies that made remediation a top priority at the former Air Force base. Environmental actions at Brooks were one of many issues that had to be addressed prior to the City-Base conveyance ceremony in July.

"This ready for reuse determination opens new doors for the utilization of vacant land, collaboration with private industry and academia to spawn economic development and enhance the quality of research," said ceremony signatory Dr. Ata-Ur-Rahman, Correc-

tive Action Section manager for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, praised the various stakeholders for their stewardship, saying, "I am proud of the collaborative process that restored something to the nation that was once used by the federal government."

Echoing Dodd's sentiments was Christopher Brady, San Antonio assistant city manager, who said, "There's a strong message here that is important to all of us, that we can work in partnership with regulatory agencies."

Brady called the ceremony symbolic, noting, "The reuse of this area will allow City-Base to continue to be a strong factor for economic development."

Edlund said the environmental initiatives taken need to be exported as a national model for waste site remediation.

Among local leaders who participated in the ceremony were District 3 city councilwoman Toni Moorhouse, 311th HSW deputy director Dr. Brendan Godfrey and BDA executive director Tom Rumora.



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Commentary



Veterans Day, 1954

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

"Now, Therefore, I, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, November 11, 1954, as Veterans Day. On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

I also direct the appropriate officials of the Government to arrange for the display of the flag of the United States on all public buildings on Veterans Day.

In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to wish to join hands in the common purpose."

Done at the City of Washington this eighth day of October in the Year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifty-four, and of the Independence of the (SEAL) United States of America the one hundred and seventy-ninth.

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

Patriotism, there's more to it than meets the eye

By Lt. Col. Rich Cordell

8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron commander

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia (AFPN) — I've always considered myself a patriot, but recently I've come to realize there's more to patriotism than wearing red, white and blue.

Let me set the scene for my awakening.

The cell phone rang; it was the boss. He began, "Rich, it's Todd. I've got good news and bad news."

Taking the bait, I replied, "Go ahead, give me the bad news."

His tone changed and became serious, "I'm pretty sure you've got a command, but it's not a flying command and it's a remote."

My world came crashing down. I was devastated and angry. What did I do to deserve this?

Then I arrived at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, where the men and women of the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron, known as the Mighty 8th, and the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing taught me the true meaning of patriotism.

It was during the Mighty 8th's early morning bus ride to work. Airmen talked of birthdays and weddings missed and of anniversaries that would be delayed; but not with the bitterness or anger I felt when I got the news from my boss that I was headed here.

Instead, I saw a true patriotism flowing from their hearts, and I continue to see it every day.

Most of these men and women volunteered to be activated, knowing full well they'd find themselves thousands of miles from loved ones; missing all those once-in-a-lifetime events that will happen during their rotation.

They talk of things they'll miss and of the love of their life. Bob's daughter is sick. The infrequent news he receives provides little reassurance.

Miguel and George speak of their daughters' sweet 16 parties. The girls say they understand

and they grudgingly accept the cost of their fathers' patriotism.

They all describe their children and families with love and admiration.

Morris is celebrating his 50th birthday here in the desert. What a milestone to miss sharing with your family.

Rich and Dave married their loves less than a week before they were activated. Some honeymoon.

John is rather quiet. He's trying to manage a difficult situation. He's served at PSAB for four months. When he returns to his loved ones, he'll have 30 days to prepare for a year remote in Korea. You have to wonder how his wife calculates the cost of their family's patriotism. Over 24 months they'll be separated for 16.

Death is a foe that follows us no matter where we go. Crystal has lost her aunt and can't be there for the funeral.

John has just returned from his two short weeks of emergency leave. He heard the bad news of his father's death on his dad's birthday.

Mike talks of his grandmother and of her passing. Instead of returning on emergency leave, he decided to remain here and serve with the PSAB team. He speaks warmly of her. She sounds like most of our grandmothers and reminds us all of how much we miss them.

Lew's wife has managed the sale of their home and the purchase of their new home all by herself. She has maneuvered around the lawyers and administrative nightmares and yet she assures Lew, "All's fine; the pregnancy is going well and the baby's fine."

As these incredible people have accepted the burden to serve, so have their families.

They seek no reward or favor, they do this for honor and God's higher purpose.

Just like you, they are true patriots and have taught me how selfish I have been.

Thank you and God bless you for your service to country and your patriotism.

One Team - One Fight.



Brooks entomologists study dengue in Honduras

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

A team of five military and civilian Air Force personnel, including an activated reservist and two Army officers recently traveled to Honduras to study the disease dengue for two weeks. Dengue, which means "break bone," is historically second only to malaria in terms of impact to deployed U.S. troops. Symptoms of dengue include high fever and intense pain in the bones and joints. The first time a person contracts the disease, the symptoms are severe, but rarely fatal. However, a second infection may result in dengue hemorrhagic fever, a far more serious condition, which can be fatal.

"If we send special forces down there and they get dengue, we have a big issue about whether they can be sent into another area with dengue," said Col. James Swaby, deputy director and senior staff scientist at the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis.

Swaby and Capt. Keith Blount, assigned to the U.S. School of Aerospace Medicine, both medical entomologists, were members of the team. At the time of the trip, Swaby was a member of the Force Protection Battlelab at Lackland Air Force Base.

The team took down the Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device, along with DNA and RNA probes

developed at AFIERA's Epidemiological Surveillance Directorate to identify dengue fever and Aedes aegypti, the mosquito that transmits it. Using RAPID, dengue can be detected in the blood of a person or in a mosquito in 30 minutes.

"When you put a probe in with an unknown sample, if the matching RNA exists in the sample, that RNA will be reproduced many times until it can be detected," Swaby said. "The process causes the replicated RNA to glow. If it glows, then it has dengue in it. The sensor in the RAPID detects this glow."

Dengue has four serotypes, or strains, and RAPID uses a specific probe for each type, as well as a universal dengue probe, which indicates the presence of any of the four strains. A person living in an area where the disease is endemic could contract one, or up to all four forms of the disease, if present.

Before the development of the RAPID method of detection, it could take several days before scientists positively identified a sample as having dengue. Identifying a mosquito vector, a carrier or insect that transmits the disease from one host to another, required deployment of a highly trained entomologist familiar with the identification process of mosquitoes.

"We went down there to show we could identify dengue in the field en-

vironment in less than 30 minutes and identify the mosquito that carries it," Swaby said. "What we demonstrated was that we could also identify the mosquito in minutes with the RAPID and a DNA probe."

According to Swaby, no real threat of the disease exists in the U.S. The last reported cases of dengue in the U.S. that weren't contracted while visiting an infected region of the world, were in Hawaii last summer. The last reported cases with the same conditions on the continental U.S. were in Laredo, Texas, in 1999.

In contrast, Public Health administrators in Honduras reported 520 cases of hemorrhagic fever in that country to the U.S. team.

"The reality is, we went into an extremely dangerous environment to fight a deadly disease," Swaby said. "We wore treated (with insect repellent) civilian clothes and repellent on our skin. That's all you really can do."

During their trip, the U.S. team was provided armed military and police escorts by the Honduran government. They also received the assistance of the Ministry of Public Health, who provided translators for the team.

The Army has invited the Air Force members to return to South America to do further testing in the future.

Currently, there is still no vaccine for dengue.

Lackland AFB's AirFest takes to the skies Nov. 1

Lackland Air Force Base's first-ever AirFest takes to the skies over San Antonio tomorrow, Nov. 1. The event is free and open to the general public.

The Air Force aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds, and the Army parachute-jumping demonstration team, The Golden Knights, are the main headliners in a day full of aerial antics, aircraft displays and more.

Other scheduled aerial demonstrations include the Air Force's newest trainer, the T-6A "Texan II," as well as an F-15 "Eagle," P-51 "Mustang" and an AT-6 "Texan." Gene Soucey's Air Shows will thrill the crowd with their Extra 300S and "Showcat" bi-plane wing-walking act. The "Flying Elvis," impersonators will jump into the show wearing lighted Elvis jumpsuits. The Commemorative Air Force is scheduled to re-enact the attack on Pearl Harbor, with "Tora, Tora, Tora".

Static displays will allow visitors an up close look at many of today's U.S. military aircraft. The display includes nine different types of helicopters, the F-117 "Nighthawk," C-17 "Globemaster III," F-16 "Fighting Falcon," among many others.

A radio control aircraft demonstration and a performance by the Air Force Tops in Blue are also on the schedule.

Due to security concerns, visitors are prohibited from bringing concealed weapons, ice chests, backpacks, large bags, alcohol, glass bottles, skates, skateboards, rollerblades, bicycles and pets, with the exception of seeing eye dogs, onto the grounds. Visitors are encouraged to bring folding chairs, but storage bags are not allowed. Anyone carrying these items will be asked to return them to their vehicle. Small camera bags, diaper bags and purses are allowed.

Shuttle buses will run from Lackland to the AirFest grounds, and pick up visitors at parking areas throughout Kelly USA.

Gates open at 8 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. The Airfest runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 671-SHOW or visit the website at: www.lackland.af.mil/airfest for the latest Airfest information.

November Promotions

The following Brooks personnel will be promoted to the rank indicated in November.

To Airman:

Carl Busse

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine

Sokuntheary Vann

311th Medical Squadron

To Airman First Class:

Anthony Clay

311th Security Forces Squadron

To Senior Airman:

Leo Funchess

Air Force Research Laboratory

William Jones

68th Information Operations Squadron

Erica Hernandez

311th Communication Squadron

To Staff Sergeant:

Neil Young

USAFSAM

To Technical Sergeant:

John Castillo

311th Human Systems Wing

Letizia Lufrano

USAFSAM

Brigida Hendrix

311th MDS

Tracy Sullivan

68th IOS

To Master Sergeant:

Gerald Blackman

Air Force Medical Support Agency

Rogelio Cano

USAFSAM

To Chief Master

Sergeant:

Steven Smith

311th SFS

To First Lieutenant:

Micah Tapp

311th Human Systems Program Office

To Captain:

Paul Escobedo

311th YA

To Major:

Brian Collins

311th YA

William Jones

USAFSAM



Entire Air Force expected to benefit from assignment system enhancements

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — A better chance for officers and commanders to align assignments with deployments and family needs are two benefits of a new three-cycle officer assignment calendar beginning with moves in summer 2003, said personnel officials.

The change — a decrease from four “cycles” per year — eliminates the overlap in cycles and “deconflicts” assignments with air and space expeditionary force deployments, said Maj. Gen. Michael McMahan, Air Force Personnel Center commander.

It also provides more pre-

dictability in permanent change-of-station moves and gives commanders improved input into the assignment process while maintaining a system that is fair and equitable, said the general.

Officers will still need to maintain a “preference worksheet” that lists their desires for future moves, officials said.

“We’re not changing the (Air Force Assignment System), but we are refining the process,” said McMahan. “We’re going to do our best to put people where they want to be. But as always, the needs of the Air Force come first when we make assignments.”

The three-cycle system will also compliment the air and space expeditionary force structure, giving those assigned to AEFs more flexibility with their moves.

“Because we will know who is going to move, months in advance, someone who is assigned to an AEF will have more input as to the time in which they move. They might want to move during that cycle or be slipped to the next one to get things in order,” said Col. Carl Evans, who headed the AFPC team that steered these changes.

“Flexibility for the members and commanders is the added bonus here.”

Another benefit is everyone will be able to weigh into the process before an assignment is finalized, promising increased communication with commanders and officers facing assignment, and perhaps minimizing unexpected assignment declinations, said Evans.

Personnel officials predict that 50 percent of all officers scheduled to move will do so during the “new” summer cycle each year (June to September).

The new cycles become effective in November with the release of the vulnerable movers list — a listing of those officers who are currently most likely to have to move to a new location.

“This is great for those officers with children in school,” said Evans.

“It should make it a bit easier for us to avoid mov-

ing them during the school year.

“It’s a win-win for commanders, officers and those working the assignments,” he said. “The changes will benefit the entire Air Force.”

Under the current process, overlapping assignment cycles cause rapidly outdated VMLs.

Previously, assignment officers were often building the new VML while still trying to finalize the moves from the previous cycle. This resulted in some airmen being on the list who should not have been.

“There’s no overlap with a three-cycle process,” said Evans.

“Removing a cycle will open up the assignment timeline and give everyone a clearer picture of who is really a potential “mover” in a given cycle,” he added.

‘myPay’ provides online pay resources

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A program designed to help Air Force people manage their pay more easily went online Oct. 15.

Formerly named the Employee/Member Self-Service program, myPay offers improved online services for active-duty, Guard and Reserve airmen, civilian employees, retirees and beneficiaries, said Bruce Lemkin, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management and co-chair of the Personnel Pay Council.

Among the many features available for airmen, he said, are the abilities to view, print and save leave and earning statements; change federal and state tax withholdings; update bank

account and electronic funds transfer information; edit information; and control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment.

Although many of the myPay features were available through E/MSS, this is just the first step in improving the service provided to customers, Lemkin said.

“Airmen will have the ability to view and print their W-2s this January and, by spring, they will also be able to start and stop allotments,” he said. “In the future, we also hope to allow people to view and print their travel vouchers.”

People can log into myPay immediately if they have a current E/MSS personal identification number. If they have forgotten their PIN or are a new user, they can request a PIN on the myPay Web site.

PINs will be sent to new users through the mail. In the near future, new users will be able to receive their PINs through e-mail.

Users of myPay need a Web browser with secure socket layers protocol with 128-bit encryption software to access their accounts. This combination prevents information from being retrieved by someone else while it is being transmitted.

The combination of 128-bit encryption and SSL technology with a user’s Social Security number, PIN and a Department of Defense-specific telephone number makes using myPay as secure as using an automated teller machine at a bank, according to Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

This new program is the result of a collaborative effort between the Air Force, DFAS and DoD to improve customer service, Lemkin said.

“One of our goals is to allow customers to do online anything that they previously had to stand in line (at the finance office) to accomplish,” said Tom Bloom, DFAS director.

Employee Assistance Program offers help to civilian employees

The newly-implemented Employee Assistance Program offers Air Force Materiel Command civilian employees the chance to seek help for emotional or mental health issues.

“The central focus of our program is taking care of civilian employees in a way that was never before offered. We emphasize that all our services are strictly confidential,” said Aryol Young, EAP administrator from Federal Occupational Health, hired by AFMC to provide this service to command civilians and members of their households.

Licensed counselors are available 24 hours a day by calling 800-222-0364. Assistance is provided for up to six free sessions per year, per identified problem.

Employees who need help or would like to know more about the program can also visit the website at: www.foh4you.com.

This service is available to all AFMC civilians at Brooks, including tenants.



Brooks senior leaders praise colleagues during Airmen's Appreciation Day

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks senior leaders both praised and pampered their co-workers during the 3rd Annual Airmen's Appreciation Day Oct. 18 that featured a generous helping of food, fun and frivolity.

"It's important that we take time out and let our airmen know how much we appreciate them," said Col. Stuart Cowles, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander. Cowles joined other Brooks leaders from the NCO Council and "Top 3" in supporting the daylong celebration at Sidney's.

Airman 1st Class Crystal Ray, Brooks Airmen's Council president, emceed the event that featured a lunch, donated gifts and entertainment that included a volleyball, dart and pool tournament capped by a karaoke competition.

"This event is held to show the base's appreciation for all that we do," Ray said, referring not only to many base functions that the 295 airmen here support, but community service they provide. Community activities that Brooks airmen support include the American Heart Association's 5K Run, San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries "Feed the Homeless" program and mentoring at area schools that includes participation in a pen pal program.

"Our goals are to increase morale, participation



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Command Chief Master Sgt. Darlin "Big E" Evans, center, led fellow senior NCOs in serving free food to Brooks' airmen during the 3rd Annual Airmen's Appreciation Day.

and enhance motivation. We lead by example and help each other out. That's what it's all about," said Ray.

Cowles added, "I'm really overwhelmed by the great work the Airmen's Council is doing. The talent and ability I see here just warms my heart."

Cowles, who began his Air Force career in 1972 as an enlisted man, credits Brooks supervisors for showing caring leadership in recognizing the many contributions airmen have made to Brooks and the San Antonio community.

The Airmen's Council is the only chartered organization of its kind in the Air Force. The group meets monthly. Monthly membership is \$1.

The NCO Council and "Top 3" provided a free lunch to the airmen. The Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union donated some of the door prizes.

Recruiting

Continued from Page 1

he said. "But the real key to success has been hard work."

Competition in the marketplace for health care professionals and engineers, however, continues to be a big challenge for the Air Force.

"Air Force accessions for physicians, nurses and technical professionals continue to fall short of Air Force requirements," Rice said.

The general said AFRS would continue to focus its efforts on officer accessions in these key areas and work exceptionally hard to make up some lost ground early in the new fiscal year.

Air Force recruiters have been working for months to meet the fiscal 2003 enlisted requirements.

"When we met our enlistment contract goal of 37,283 on May 2, the earliest in more than 15 years, recruiters immediately set their sites on next year's anticipated goal of more than 37,000," said Col. James Holaday, chief of the AFRS operations division.

Holaday added that AFRS began the new fiscal year with more than 50 percent of the enlistment contracts already signed for the upcoming year.



Job skill 'shift' prompts inaugural Brooks seminar

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Learning to adapt to a rapidly changing work environment by enhancing career opportunities was the common motivation for dozens of city, state and federal employees to attend the inaugural Brooks Special Emphasis Program Managers training seminar Oct. 17-18 at the downtown Radisson Hotel.

Co-hosted by the Brooks SEPM and the Area Council Black Employment Managers, the event's theme was "Building a Career Future: Employment, a Community Concern." Seminar participants included employees from the city of San Antonio, the U.S. Army, National Park Service, Defense Commissary Agency and Brooks City-Base.

"The traditional ways of moving up in a job program no longer exist. There has been a shift in the workforce where the focus is on developing skills to stay employed," said Neda Jasper, the event creator and Black Employment Program Manager at Brooks.

Jasper said the seminar was designed to help empower participants to take control of their careers through strategies that will allow them to remain competitive in the job market.

"Career progress really belongs to the individual," Jasper said.

The seminar featured a diverse group of speakers from the corporate world and academia who shared their success stories for workforce development and personal career enhancement. Seminar topics included investment and mediation strategies, leadership dynamics and entrepreneurship.

"We (also) wanted to provide participants with information about the job market in San Antonio," Jasper said, referring to the types of jobs that are available now and future employment opportunities.

The seminar's theme was, perhaps, best addressed by keynote speaker Clarissa Davis-Wrightsil, a John Jay High School graduate who



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Olympian and former Women's National Basketball Association star Clarissa Davis-Wrightsil was the keynote speaker at the Brooks' Special Emphasis Program Managers training seminar Oct. 17 and 18 in downtown San Antonio.

succeeded on the world stage by winning a Bronze Medal at the 1992 Olympic Games as a member of the U.S. Women's Basketball Team.

She said, "If you want to achieve, you have to be willing to fail. You also have to develop your potential by having a plan."

The former Women's National Basketball Association player encouraged seminar attendees to develop skills and capabilities that set them apart from others. However, she cautioned that "succeeding at all costs" is not a worthy goal.

"The challenge for us is to improve ourselves so we can help others," she said.

Santa Clauses wanted: Elf Louise project seeks volunteers

If recent holiday seasons seem to have lacked that special spirit of old, there may be an answer. This year, get into the spirit of the holidays by volunteering for the Elf Louise Christmas Project.

Last year, Elf Louise volunteers gathered, wrapped, and personally delivered more than 50,000 toys to nearly 9,000 families in the Bexar county area.

The project is located in the old Montgomery Wards building in McCreless Mall. Help is needed in several areas.

Through Dec. 5, individual volunteers are needed to help with office tasks, warehouse set-up and a wide range of miscellaneous work necessary to get the project started.

Project offices are usually open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

From Dec. 5-13, help wrap more than 50,000 gifts. Helpers are also desperately needed to stock toy shelves and organize wrapped gifts in the warehouse.

Gift wrap volunteers are plenty, but not many people volunteer to move boxes of toys or keep the workshop organized.

Wrapping hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday, and noon- 6 p.m. Sundays. Walk-in individual volunteers are always welcome. Groups of volunteers must pre-register to ensure enough room for everyone.

Dec. 15-23 is your chance to play Santa Claus. Teams of friends, family and co-workers can deliver toys to 6-10 families. Santa suits are ready to go.

Santa briefings are held daily from Dec. 5-13 at 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sundays.

For more information, call the Elf Hotline at 224-1843, extension 200, or contact Sharon Earley at 536-2825, or by email at: Sharon.Earley@brooks.af.mil.



ACTIONLINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron	536-2851
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	533-4100
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-5778
Civilian Pay	536-8370
I.G. (FWA)	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
BXMarket	533-9079
Brooks Development Office	536-3372
Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office.....	536-5366

Decline in Services

Q *There has been a recent decline in the services offered by the Frame Shop and the Services Marketing Office at Brooks. Is this a result of the City-Base transition? There are rumors that it could be due to financial problems and personnel conflicts amongst the staff members there.*

Is there any way the problems can be addressed and the issues resolved so we can regain the services that the airmen at Brooks' desperately want and need?

A The Brooks FrameShop continues to offer the same services it has always offered, including some new ones, such as designing and printing business cards and flyers for customers. The FrameShop operation is a highly-specialized one-person job. Our employee recently took a government job on base and as a result, is only available to work 20 hours per week at for the Frame Shop. Because of this, we've had to decrease operating hours some, and cut down on customized framing, since it's very time consuming and generated very little profit. The shop still provides framing services but they accept package orders rather than individual custom framing jobs.

Accordingly, we've recently changed the name to Premiere Designs to highlight the shift we've made from a traditional framing operation to one that does such things as business cards, plaques, wood, glass and metal engraving, shadow boxes, and balloon sales.

Premiere Designs is not supported with appropriated funds, and is required to operate on a pay-as-you-go basis in order to pay its bills. Since the above changes have taken place, the operation has become leaner and more efficient, as well as financially viable again, which allows us to keep the shop open and meet our customers' needs.

Premiere Design is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 1154. Call 536-8648 or 536-2120 for more information.

Premiere Designs offers:

Package framing: Bring in your framing project— photo, certificate, etc., and ask for the package deal. The framer will select the appropriate mat and molding to compliment your project from the supply on hand.

Helium balloons: Throughout the month of Nov., purchase a baker's dozen of helium balloons for \$2. Individual balloons can be purchased for 20 cents each. Prices are valid while supplies last.

Business cards: Get your business cards printed for less. Choose from several colors and designs and pay \$10 for 100 cards, \$20 for 250, 500 cards for \$35 or \$40 for 1000. Ask about the price break when ordering four or more order cards using the same office symbol/logo and card layout design. Orders can be e-mailed to: rebecca.estrada@brooks.af.mil.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Veterans Administration Representative Dino Genco, a 21-year Army veteran, left, assists Tech. Sgt. Ron Collins, 311th Human Systems Wing Plans and Programs Office, with VA forms and paperwork. Genco recently began working Wednesday mornings at Brooks.

Brooks gets first-ever VA representative

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

Brooks has a Veterans Affairs representative on base for the first time in its history.

Dino Genco, a 21-year Army veteran, works at Brooks every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon, answering questions about veterans' benefits from the retired and active duty community.

"I like to encourage everyone to at least come out and ask questions," Genco said. "Ninety percent of people separating from active duty don't do this because they think

they're not entitled to any benefits."

According to Genco, veterans may have some condition which qualifies them for benefits. Though they may not immediately qualify, applying opens the door for future evaluation, should it be necessary. Those who never applied can still attempt to get benefits later, but may encounter a much more difficult process.

Members who served in the military for six months during peacetime or 90 days in wartime is considered a veteran. Those currently serving in the

military have wartime status.

"It's definitely a help for the folks," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Fred Dickinson, director of Brooks Retiree Activities Office. "The ones I'm really worried about are the ones who need disability counseling. A lot of folks don't know (about their benefits)," he said.

Genco works for American Veterans, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping veterans obtain their benefits. VA reps can help retired, retiring or separated military members to file for faster separation, receive benefits

sooner and qualify for more benefits. They're similar to a certified public accountant who knows more about the regulations and quirks of tax laws than an average citizen.

Maj. Don Turco, the resource manager for the Air Force Medical Support Agency, began terminal leave Oct. 26. He attended a Transition Assistance Program offered by the Family Support Center three months before he began his leave. The transition assistance class was run by VA representatives.

"It tells you about resume writing, job searching, appearance and all your benefits," Turco said. "There was a lot of stuff I didn't know about. It was very helpful. I think it's a must for people who are retiring."

For those who only want to learn about and apply for veterans' benefits, or are already retired, making a private appointment with a VA representative may be the better option.

Genco encourages people leaving the military for various reasons to visit a representative a year prior to separation.

"The bottom line is people should find out the facts," Genco said. "It's best to make your plans based on facts, not hearsay. These are benefits they signed up for, not welfare."

Veterans' benefits include more than disability, like home loans, money for education and free health care for life at veterans' hospitals. Veterans' widows can qualify also, under certain conditions.

"People complain that they don't get the benefits they

were promised," Genco said.

"Those benefits are through the VA."

Genco decided to become a VA representative when he went to speak to a VA counselor before he separated from the Army. He asked to speak to someone at the Family Support Center and they told him to come back when he had retired.

"I put off my retirement for a year, because I didn't know what to do," Genco said. "That's the scariest time for a vet."

Genco didn't want anyone to have the same experience, so he began working as the VA representative one day a week at Randolph Air Force Base. He now works two full-days a week at Randolph in addition to his office hours at Lackland Air Force Base and Brooks.

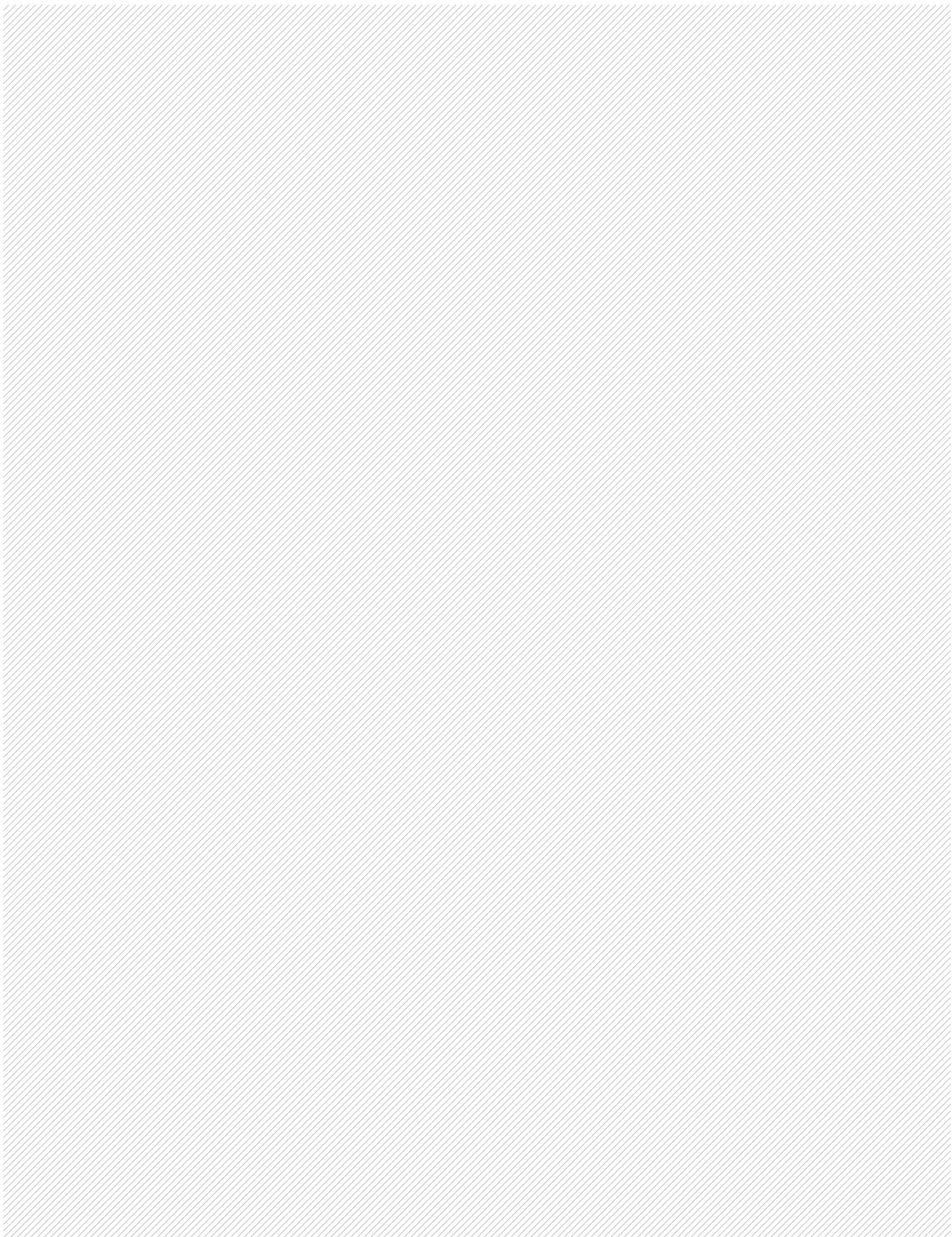
"If I can't see them, I'll find someone that can help them," Genco said.

He also said that the different veteran's service organizations work cooperatively, not competitively.

"There are too many veterans for us to be competitive," Genco said. VA hospitals also have nonprofit VA representatives in their facilities, but dependent of the hospital to aid those who feel they haven't received proper benefits or consideration.

"If the VA didn't care they wouldn't provide the service, and people still don't use it," Genco said.

To make an appointment with Genco, contact the Family Support Center at 536-2444.





Former star sprinter's 'academic track' switch leads to Ph.D.

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Being considered for the Pan American Games as one of the Air Force's top track stars nearly cost Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Isaiah a chance to excel in another field. Yet despite the allure of a promising sports career, she did not break stride when switching to an "academic track" that has led to education's pinnacle of success.

In September, Isaiah joined an elite Air Force group when she became only the fourth enlisted woman to earn a Ph.D.

The quiet, unassuming 311th Security Forces Squadron manager admits that her recent goal of earning a doctoral degree in education administration was not on her academic "radar screen" when she graduated from high school in 1976.

"My dream was to become a cop," said the Refugio, Texas, native who majored in criminal justice at the University of Houston where she had earned a volleyball scholarship. Homesick and not able to cope with the scholar-athlete regimen, Isaiah forfeited her scholarship when she transferred to Bee County Community College.

The promise of an Air Force law enforcement career eventually appealed to Isaiah, who in 1978 became a Security Forces member.

"At the time, I thought it was the best thing to do," she said.

Gate guard duty at Beale Air Force Base, Calif., and a dispatcher assignment at Misawa Air Base, Japan, followed. However, she got "off track" from law enforcement and education when she pursued an Air Force-level sports career.

Isaiah made the Air Force volleyball team and was invited to the Air Force softball team camp. By 1986, she had broken the European record in the 220 meters as a member of the U.S. Air Force - Europe track team. Not meeting requirements for the Pan Am Games, however, became for Isaiah a blessing in disguise.

That turning point in her life occurred in 1988, following a discussion with her commander.

"He said, 'You have to decide what you want to do with your career, either play sports or pursue an education. Sports is good, but you need your education,'" Isaiah recalls. "I started studying to make rank. My first goal was to earn a criminal justice degree through the Community College of the Air Force."

By 1990, Isaiah had achieved her goal. "Mom was happy for me. She felt I was on the right track."

The degree achievement prompted Isaiah to re-evaluate her life. Her younger sister Beverly also fired Isaiah's competitive spirit. Isaiah re-

alized she had a greater opportunity to excel as a single woman with no children, based on her sibling having earned a law degree while married and raising a child.

The Lackland Air Force Base Education Office helped Isaiah with tuition assistance toward obtaining her Master's degree in human resources management, earned in 1996 from Webster University.

Isaiah admits that genetics finally kicked in for her in terms of perseverance. "My mother was a very determined, tough woman. She had to work for everything she had," Isaiah said.

It was during her Master's degree program that she began sitting in on doctoral classes in education to determine if she was capable of doing the course work. She enrolled in a Texas A&M University doctoral program, then was reassigned to the Azores in 1997.

"Everything was put on hold," she said of her dream to earn a Ph.D. However, she began studying to make E-8, which she accomplished during her overseas tour. She resumed her doctoral degree program after her reassignment to Brooks in January 1999.

She credits 70 of her colleagues for helping her earn her degree. She used them as research subjects for her dissertation on "The Effects of Working Rotating Night Shifts on Employee Morale,



Courtesy photo

Earlier this year, Senior Master Sgt. Pamela Isaiah earned 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd's congratulations for her selection as Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter. Recently, Isaiah earned renewed appreciation from members of the Brooks' community, including her 311th Security Forces Squadron colleagues, when she became the fourth enlisted Air Force female to receive her Ph.D.

Physical Well-Being, Alertness and Homelife/lifestyle."

"I had worked shift work forever. I thought it was a good idea," said Senior Master Sgt. Steven Smith, who gave Isaiah the idea for her dissertation.

"The biggest challenge I had was that there was no turning back when you get started," Isaiah said, noting that many sacrifices and compromises had to be made.

She prevailed and excelled, graduating from La Crosse University with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Isaiah did not want to participate in graduation, opting instead to share her biggest triumph with her family at a party.

Her emotional address to

them was intended to motivate those with similar dreams:

"You can't use your age as an excuse. You have to be determined. Don't let anyone tell you you can't be what you want to be. Don't set limitations."

Isaiah is now committed to another goal: helping encourage and motivate disadvantaged children. She has volunteered to serve as a mentor at Martin Luther King Middle School, a San Antonio Independent School District campus whose children are greatly in need of role models. At least one fortunate student there has found one in Isaiah.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Brooks' colonel a 'rare bird' as Air Force survivor

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

It didn't take Nat King Cole's hit song "Straighten Up And Fly Right" to convince her to stay the course in becoming one of only a few female African-American colonels in the Air Force. All Col. Sherrell Russell needed to hear to jump-start her career was candid advice from her Air Force veteran father.

Today, she is grateful to her dad Rudolph Robinson and mother Dorothy for instilling in her qualities that all leaders need to be successful: perseverance, commitment and an incorruptible belief in themselves to accomplish and endure anything.

"My parents did not initially support my decision to join the military," admits Russell, whose 30-year Air Force career recently ended when she completed her last assignment as deputy director of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis.

To the Robinson's surprise and chagrin, their fiercely independent first-born daughter had 'eloped' with the Air Force after graduating from North Texas State University with a medical technology degree. "I called my father from OTS and told him I had joined. There was (momentary) silence. Then he said, 'You did what?'"

It took her folks a while to warm up to the idea. It took Russell even longer to warm up to Minot Air Force Base, N.D., where she had to deal with the "big chill" of social isolation and physically challenging desolation.

"I arrived there on New Year's Day 1973," she lamented, admitting that her high-heeled attire did little to insulate her from the biting cold. "Nobody from base wanted to pick me up at the airport." Eventually someone on holiday duty relented, arriving hours later at the tiny airport, which was being closed for the night. Russell's ordeal had just begun.

She was issued winter clothing that did not properly fit her petite dimensions. Making matters worse, her quarters and work station were off base.



Courtesy photo

Col. Sherrell Russell signs an "armistace" agreement that ended the Travis Air Force Base "Penny War" that she helped provoke as a fundraising event while serving as a squadron commander.

"The base did not have a clinic and the Veterans Administration hospital was downtown. I had arrived right after Minot had experienced race riots. They (locals) were not anxious to rent to me." The Air Force Legal Office intervened to help Russell secure off-base lodging.

The naïve second lieutenant soon pondered fleeting thoughts of executing a career-ending getaway. "I had always heard of (disgruntled) people going 'over the hill,' but there were no hills (in North Dakota)," she mused.

A telephone conversation with her father ended the misplaced idea of aborting her fledgling career. "My father told me, 'You made this choice. You have to stick with it!'

She said, "I was beside myself. My parents had sheltered me from segregation in the South. I had never had to deal with it." Russell coped with the situation for six months as a VA hospital lab officer, then was shipped to the post-Vietnam War turbu-

lence of the Philippines.

"When I arrived at Clark Air Base, the government had just declared Marshall Law. People there were very scared. Americans had a strained relationship with the native population," she recalled.

The Philippines had become an armed camp after a coup attempt had failed to topple the Marcos regime. "I didn't feel safe. It was the first time I felt like a foreigner."

While the political and social turmoil was unsettling, her tour there proved fruitful. "I learned a lot about leadership. I was raised (there) by senior NCOs and pathologists."

When she was re-assigned to Cannon AFB, N.M., Russell asked herself, "What did I do to make people (at assignments) so mad?" Her third consecutive "isolation" tour featured the distinct and lingering odor of feed lots. "Clovis is a cattle town with a small minority population and an even smaller minority officer population."

She also had to battle a persistent pattern of having to prove herself in a male dominated culture. "It was tough. I was expected to do things at a level higher than my male counterparts." She prevailed, spurred by her father's unrelenting advice not to quit.

Her greatest challenge came at Travis AFB, Calif., where she became the first female officer to run the hospital lab. "I don't believe in breaking down barriers. I negotiate barriers to survive," she said. Her direct approach to working with people has been a mixed blessing. "I never ask people to like me, but to respect me and respect what I do. If I am able to do my job, (then) I'll be able to help people."

The Travis tour was a turning point in her career. By 1996, the Air Force Objective Medical Group began providing senior officers more leadership opportunities as commanders.

"I never envisioned becoming commander of 400 people," exclaimed Russell who made Air Force history as the first female to have back-to-back assignments as squadron commander at Travis AFB.

Russell's inherent belief in herself also paid off when she became the first African-American and first woman in the Air Force Biomedical Services career field to attain the rank of colonel.

She said no obstacle is insurmountable if you are willing to prevail. "Don't let anybody make you quit. If you leave, leave on your own terms."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Divestiture takes aim at Air Force Materiel Command efficiency

By Tech Sgt. Carl Norman

AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Sifting through more than 250 suggestions for work the command could stop doing, Air Force Materiel Command officials are trying to free up resources and improve efficiency.

The suggestions are part of AFMC's divestiture initiative aiming to eliminate processes and procedures no longer necessary or practical, and re-engineering other processes to reduce cycle times to get things done quicker and with less bureaucracy, according to Col. Bruce Litchfield, AFMC transformation deputy director.

The suggestions came in response to a letter Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander, sent asking wing and center commanders to submit ideas as to what they could stop doing at their level. He also asked them to identify things at any level headquarters' element that require products nonessential to mission accomplishment. Calls for additional suggestions will come quarterly.

In all, 59 actions at the center or headquarters level have been stopped and 13 have been re-engineered according to local-commander authority, Litchfield said. Some of the major items divested include: reports of performance indicators at AFMC headquarters; monthly AFMC significant events reports; and reports of electronic commerce metrics.

Information on some divested initiatives can be found in the related story on page 13.

Additionally, AFMC's Transformation Executive Steering Group, with Lt. Gen. Charles Coolidge, AFMC vice commander, at the helm met Oct. 25 to review divestiture candidates needing major command approval. The Oct. 25 review was the second in what command transformation experts plan to make a regular gathering to send ideas up the chain, said Douglas Fleser, AFMC transformation manager.

With the steering group energized and suggestions coming in, Lyles is

serious about divesting non-value added items.

"People evaluating divestiture candidates must give us very good reason why we shouldn't divest something and have strong justification to back it up. Otherwise, we're going to assume it's approved," he said.

Not only is Lyles taking divestiture seriously, but so is Secretary of the Air Force James Roche.

Lyles said when he approached Roche about asking permission to divest some things that may affect higher headquarters, Roche said, "Don't ask. If you ask permission, you may get an answer you don't like. Just stop it and if somebody wants something to continue, they'll yell and scream for it."

"That's the attitude we're going to take," Lyles said. "We still might ask permission on a few things, but otherwise we're just going to stop doing it and see if anyone complains."

Along with looking for items to divest to save time, money or to re-engineering existing processes, Coolidge encourages everyone to use their common sense.

"Whoever submits a divestiture item needs to give us an idea of where we're going after its divested," Coolidge said. "Thoroughly consider who and what the item is going to effect."

"If the idea doesn't affect people above you, you can stop doing whatever you want. But if it does, give that person or organization a call to see if it really can be divested or if there are some legal or other reasons it needs to be continued or re-engineered."

According to Litchfield, divesting is critical for AFMC and the Air Force to meet Defense Secretary

“*If an organization stands still, the world around it changes and it becomes irrelevant, so, we've got to grow, and to do that we've got to change.* **”**

Col. Bruce Litchfield
AFMC transformation
deputy director

Donald Rumsfeld's transformation challenge for military departments to develop ways to adapt quickly to new environments and uncertain circumstances. Those circumstances were "shown in spades" in the Sept. 11 attacks, Litchfield said.

"The whole emphasis behind divestiture is to allow us to stop doing outdated and unnecessary activities that may have been relevant during the Cold War and focus efforts on adapting to this post Sept. 11

environment."

Divesting nonessential policies and practices has many benefits, according to Litchfield.

Giving the commander in the field more resources to do his or her job, perfecting the way the command does business and increasing its capacity to provide better warfighting capability top that list. But a secondary benefit goes directly to AFMC and Air Force people.

"We know our workforce thinks a lot of things they do is unfulfilling or unnecessary. We wouldn't be able to transform very effectively if we weren't responsive to our people in AFMC who are delivering products daily," he said.

"Everything we can do to take away that unmeaningful, unproductive feeling will increase productivity and make people feel good about coming to work everyday — that's a big motivator for us to do this."

"As with any change or attempt to transform, not everything will go smoothly and there will surely be bumps in the road," Litchfield said.

Some of those could cause frustration and confusion.

"People are going to get frustrated because some things we won't be able to stop doing," he said.

"Whether it's mandated by law, such as environmental compliance that

can land people in jail if not accomplished correctly, or some other necessary tasks, people may have to do

work they don't see value in. We don't want people to get frustrated because they put in one recommendation and it doesn't get approved."

Although some suggestions may not be approved, that doesn't mean they won't have some impact, said June Taylor, AFMC transformation program officer.

"It will force whoever owns that process to look at ways to streamline it," she said. "So while the actual divestiture may not happen, some change to the process could."

And maybe the suggestor doesn't see the value in that work, but further information would make it clearer, she said.

Then there's the confusion people have by looking at divestiture and transformation as a threat to their job — the "If I give this up my job security has disappeared" mindset.

"This isn't a job threat, it's a load issue," Litchfield said.

"Divestiture is a good process that has done good things because our people are doing a great job finding non-value added things to divest. Everyone continuing to submit well-thought-out ideas and communicating those clearly up and down the chain will keep it going in the right direction."

Getting to the heart of transformation and divestiture, Litchfield said it's a simple matter of either becoming more effective or becoming irrelevant.

"If an organization stands still, the world around it changes and it becomes irrelevant," he said. "So, we've got to grow, and to do that we've got to change."

"If you look at what the president and secretary of defense have set out to do, we have to transform or we're never going to meet their mandates. We don't want to be irrelevant, so we've got to change, and divestiture is going to help us do that."

See Divestiture examples, Page 13



Divestiture examples cited

By Tech Sgt. Carl Norman

AFMC Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Air Force Materiel Command people are putting the command's policies, programs, communicating and reporting practices and other items under the microscope to determine redundancies and nonessential actions that can be eliminated or streamlined.

To date, local commanders and officials at the headquarters have stopped 59 actions and re-engineered more than a dozen others, according to Douglas Fleser, AFMC transformation manager. Some of those approved are:

Stopping the requirement for field units to generate a monthly significant events report because there are other ways of getting the information and this report was duplicating efforts.

Having maintainers at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., stop doing maintenance on aircraft like the C-141, which is going out of the Air Force inventory completely.

Consolidating reporting on the command's product support and mission area associated activities because information is available at similar sources and existing reports are repetitive and unnecessary.

Deleting modernization plans metrics from the AFMC quarterly executive review product line: Systems program office experts are currently required to brief the status on the number of ongoing modernization plans. This is no longer required because officials said the metric is not meaningful.

Eliminating the quarterly center ex-

ecutive summary to the AFMC commander: Here center commanders submitted an executive summary of business area activity, but experts found this duplicated business area point of contact efforts because they have to submit quarterly summaries to AFMC headquarters.

Eliminating the monthly headquarters AFMC depot maintenance mission area video teleconference briefing: Officials found it redundant because there's also a monthly Air Force chief of staff briefing provided to AFMC and CSAF covering the same information.

Depot 50/50 reporting three times a year: Changing the reporting requirement to once per year makes sure all data is up to date and useful, and it saves an estimated one-third man-year of labor per aircraft product directorate per year.

Deleting Headquarters AFMC performance indicator reporting: Here each systems program office staff reports performance indicators for AFMC's quarterly executive review — number of modification program funded and approved versus those planned. Officials found this to duplicate other existing reporting processes.

Eliminating the requirement to report electronic commerce metrics: AFMC contracting directorate experts eliminated the requirement for each center to report metrics quarterly on electronic commerce.

Eliminating the requirement to print acquisition contracts and replace it with using electronic versions.

"You're talking manpower equivalent of weeks of effort for these initiatives alone," said Col. Bruce Litchfield, AFMC transformation deputy director.

"Now multiply that times other redundancies, nonessential taskings and requirements out there and you're talking about pretty significant savings."

Additional divestiture items will be reported as they become available.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Jung

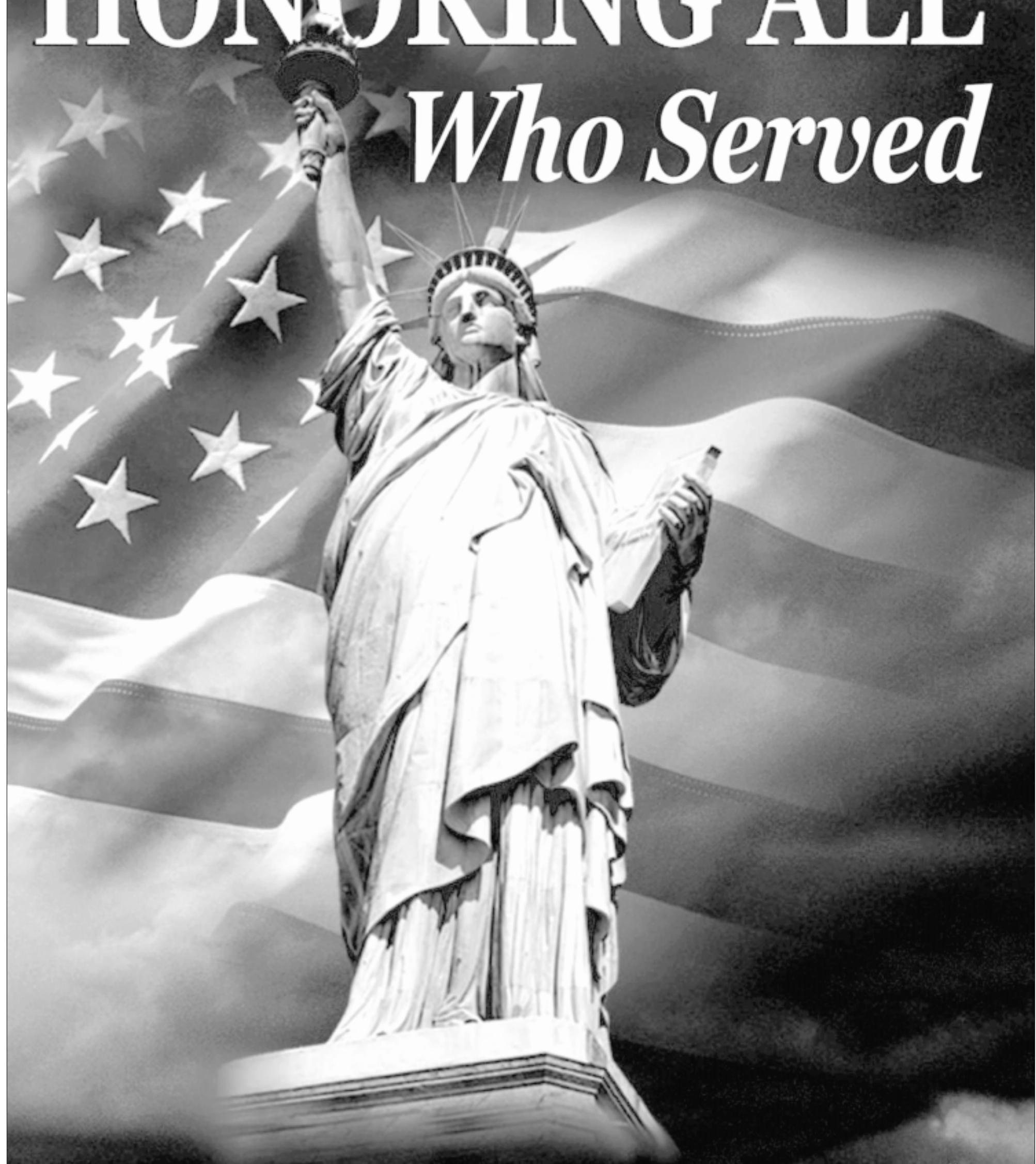
Sighting in

Staff Sgt. Justin Gehay, from the 72nd Security Forces Squadron, located at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., aligns the sights of his M-4 carbine before participating in a scenario during Defender Challenge 2002 at Lackland AFB recently.



Department of Veterans Affairs

HONORING ALL *Who Served*

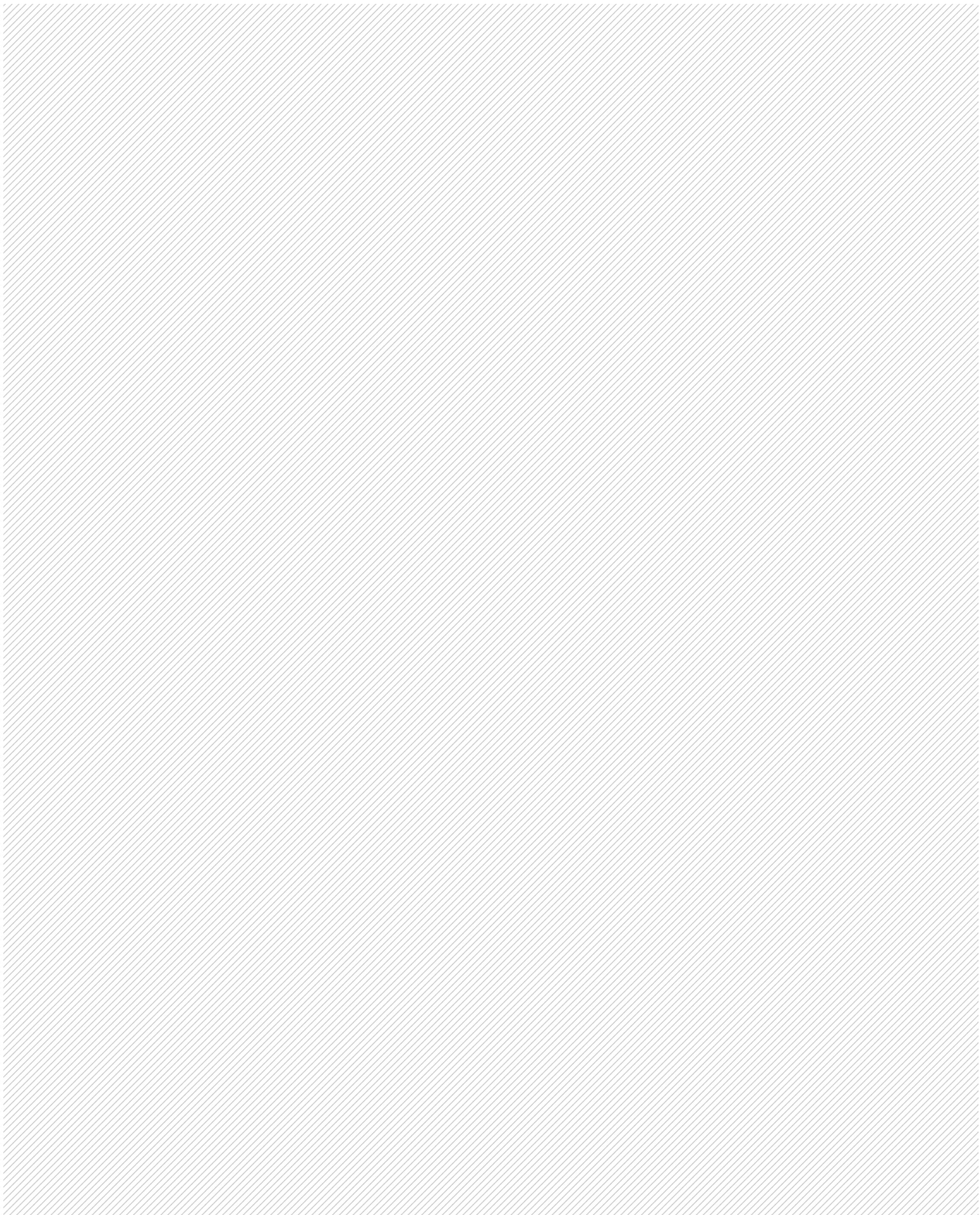


VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2002



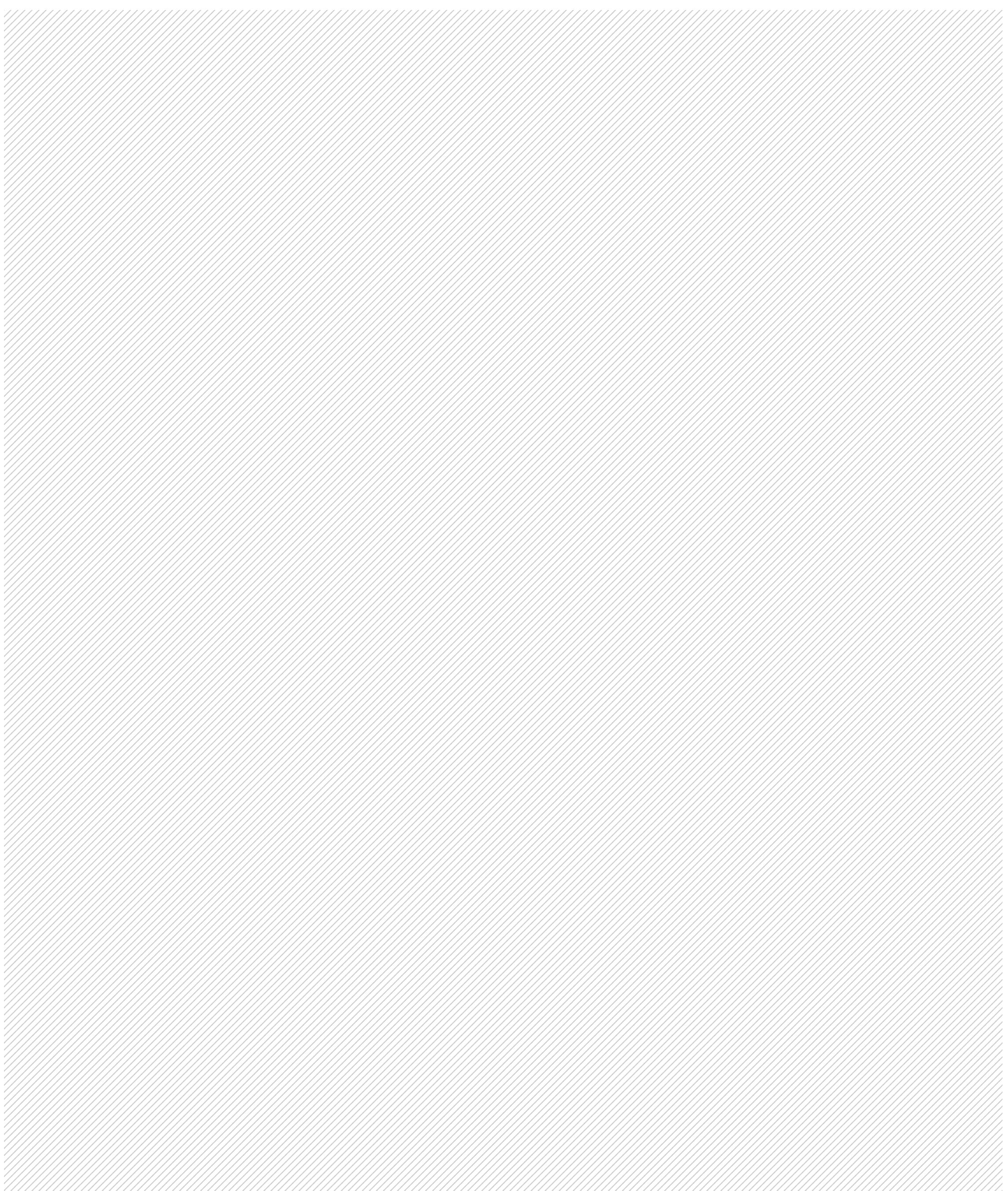


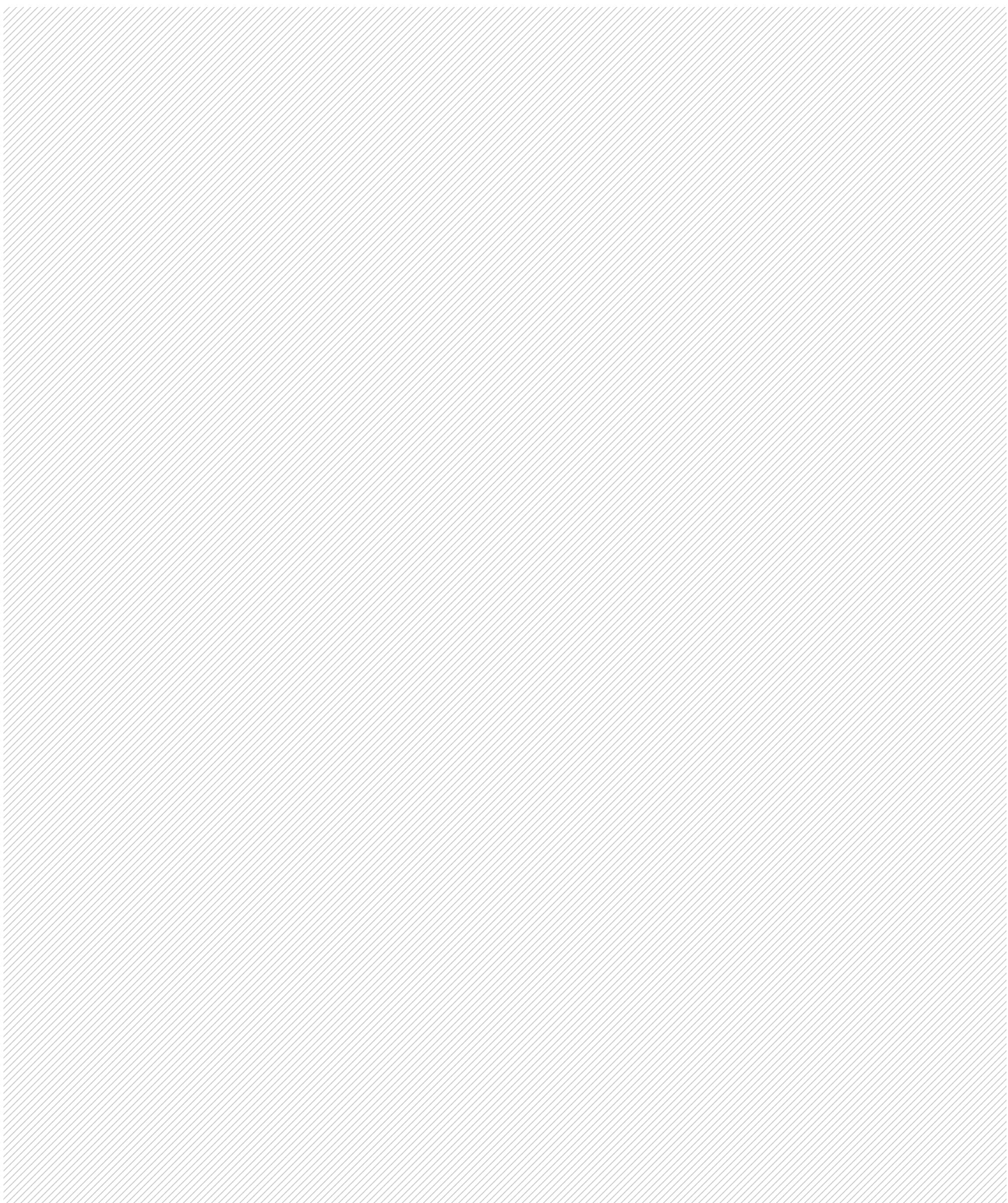
DISCOVERY **15**
Nov. 1, 2002



16

DISCOVERY
Nov. 1, 2002







Blakey

Q&A

FULL NAME:
Alice Blakey

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:
Data librarian, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

WHAT IS MY JOB?
I instruct and assist AFCEE personnel in the use of the microfilm reader and printer, and a lot of other library duties.

BIRTHDAY:
Feb. 28, 1948

HOMETOWN:
Born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. My great, great grandfather fought and died at the Alamo.

FAMILY STATUS:
Married a wonderful man, James Blakey retired Air Force and Civil Service. I have 4 wonderful children and 8 beautiful grandchildren ranging in age from two years to 16 years.

MOTTO:
A positive attitude and hard work is the key to success.

INSPIRATIONS:
My inspiration is my family, my husband, who is also my best friend, my children and grandchildren who are all wonderful and a joy to be around.

HOBBIES:
My first love is my motorcycle. I enjoy being able to ride with my husband on the weekend. We have matching motorcycles. I like to oil paint, do crafts, work on my motorcycle and build various projects. I love the outdoors and animals.

PET PEEVE:
Dishes or coffee stains in my kitchen sink.

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:
Only magazines, Women Rider, Motorcycle News and This Old House.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:
I've been at AFCEE since 1992 and would like to continue to work here until I retire.

ULTIMATE GOAL:
For my husband and I to tour the U.S. on our motorcycles. There's so much to see. We have a beautiful country and I'd like to see more of it.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IS:
Taking the motorcycle safety course and learning to ride my own motorcycle.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:
is my family.



Feature

Brooks Personality PROFILE

A conservative librarian, or a crazy biker?

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

Alice Blakey is a mild-mannered data librarian for the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence by day. But when the work whistle blows, she turns into a leather-wearing, let your hair down biker.

"Riding a bike is a different feeling," Blakey said. "Every woman oughta try it."

Blakey often rides her blue Suzuki 800 Volusia to work, arriving early to avoid traffic and to change from her biker garb into suitable conservative work clothes, ala Superman putting on his glasses when he wanted to portray himself as the conservative Clark Kent.

"I never in my life thought I'd do this," Blakey said.

Blakey grew up in what she described as a very conservative home, but her life has been anything but conservative. Blakey has worked as a plumber and an armed guard as well as raised horses, and ridden bulls.

"I didn't ride bulls for very longs," Blakey said, laughing. "Motorcycles don't try to buck you off."

Blakey fell off her bike once, turning a corner on a slick street near New Braunfels. Her husband stopped, as did another passerby, and helped her up. Her biggest concern was the condition of her bike, which got a scratch in the fender.

"It didn't faze me," Blakey said.

Blakey and her husband became interested in motorcycles when friends of theirs rode up one day on a bike.

"We spent our weekends with (the friends)," Blakey said. "I wondered what we were going to do on the weekends now. They said we could follow them in our car. I said to my husband, we have to get a motorcycle. He came unglued."

The Blakeys began their journey into the biker world by taking a motorcycle safety class offered at Brooks and then bought their first bikes.

"I fell in love," Blakey said.

The couple has ridden their motorcycles to Oklahoma to visit their children and grandchildren and took another trip to see family in New Mexico.

"We made a long trip of it. We went to New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona," Blakey said. "I'm ready to do it again."

Her passion for riding has brought Blakey and her husband closer together and allowed them to make



Courtesy photo

new friends.

"You meet the most unique people," Blakey said. "We've met people from all over the world. If you're broken down, they're going to help—even the Harleys (but) they tease you. Bikers aren't what people portray them to be."

Blakey certainly isn't the stereotypical biker babe. Petite and lovely, she has a thankful nature and cheerful demeanor. She's also gracious, a rare quality. Spending a half-hour talking to Blakey may be the most enjoyable 30 minutes a person spends all week—or even all month.

"I have a good life," Blakey said. "I'm pretty much a family person. I had wonderful parents. I thank God every day for my parents. My parents were strict, but they never prevented me from doing things. I look at little ones nowadays and wish they had the freedom I had as a kid to ride their bike down the street and not worry that someone was going to hurt them."

Blakey and her husband raised four children and now have eight grandchildren.

"I was very hard on my kids, but I was never mean. And I have great kids," Blakey said.

She laughed as she talked about one of her daughters—a taxidermist in Helotes.

"She's 115 pounds," Blakey said. "She's real bubbly, nothing scares her."

Blakey never mixes her passion for motorcycles and her love of her family.

"I won't give my grandchildren a ride," Blakey said. "I wouldn't take

that chance, not with my grandbabies."

Fortunately, Blakey enjoys other pastimes that offer more safety for the younger crowd.

"I love the yard. I love the outdoors. I love animals," Blakey said.

A cottontail rabbit lives in Blakey's yard and will eat straight from her hand. Blakey also has two deer who stay in her yard, though she keeps trying to get them to "jump the fence."

When she retires and has more time, Blakey plans to spend time oil painting. Her favorite subject is windmills, which she photographs during her road trips to save for later use.

"My husband asked me if all I was going to paint was windmills," Blakey said.

"I said probably."

For now, however, Blakey enjoys working at AFCEE and for her contractor company too much to think about retirement.

"It's been a great experience working here," Blakey said.

"I've met lots of friendly people. (This) is the best company I've ever worked for. They take real good care of me."

Though Blakey doesn't want to separate from work anytime soon, when she works in her office surrounded by papers and computers, part of her wants to change from a mild-mannered Air Force contractor to the free-spirited woman who flies down the road with the wind in her hair.



No truckin' down the road for Brooks' 'Limo man'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

In a state where pickups and sport utility vehicles rule, his regal mode of transportation arguably makes him "king of the road." As Brooks City-Base's "limo man," Ron Flat is unapologetic about his motorized lifestyle that he thoroughly enjoys on and off base.

"We would all like to be rich and have a limo," said Flat, admitting that owning two of them is a bit of a "stretch" in conveying the perception that he is wealthy.

While he's never been "flat broke," this Brooks Clinic facility manager has managed his financial resources well enough to afford a limo "fleet" and the costs associated with maintaining them.

“ When I first arrived at Brooks in my limo, the gate guards were nervous about it. People stare inside (the limo) to see if there is a celebrity.

”

Ron Flat
Brooks Clinic facility manager

Endless chatter from fellow facility managers about their luxury car trade-ins fueled Flat's long-simmering desire to drive to meetings in style.

He realized his dream at a flea market three years ago. On sale there was a

1977 dark blue, six-door funeral coach. Flat was dead set on buying it. "The price was great, the interior was good and it had low mileage," he recalls. He paid \$2,600 for his first limo, a luxury car that typically costs between \$50,000-\$70,000.

The irony and humor of him driving to the next facility managers' meeting in his pre-owned limo was not lost on his colleagues. Since then, Flat has been on "the high road" to adventure.

"When I first arrived at Brooks in my limo, the gate guards were nervous about it," remembers Flat. He frequently attracts attention, noting, "People stare



Photos by Rudy Purificato

Ron Flat enjoys the luxuries associated with owning two limousines.

inside (the limo) to see if there is a celebrity."

Sitting in the back seat of his newest "used" limo that cost him a paltry \$3,900, Flat appears to be every bit the celebrity amidst the luxury of a mini-bar, television and videocassette recorder.

The car seats six to eight people comfortably. The luxury wheels are not puncture-proof, but they are "Flat tires."

He explained that all limousines are custom built. "They (customizers) cut the car in half and add the extra length to the center of the vehicle," Flat ex-

pecting and highway maneuvering.

"It takes very little to maintain them," Flat said, admitting, however, that sometimes the air conditioning system conks out. This is especially troublesome in the Texas heat when 'high profile' passengers like 311th Mission Support Group deputy Rita Duggan found little joy in her inaugural limo ride.

Off base, Flat has enjoyed moderate success operating a limo service. He has transported tourists to Texas "Hill Country"

sites, hotel catering staffs to out-of-town receptions and newlyweds on their wedding day jaunts.

However, Flat's most conspicuous journey to date was using his limo as the lead vehicle in a convoy that transported a static display F-4 Phantom jet from Kelly Air Force Base to its new U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine home.

Far from being considered mechanical "lemons," Flat's fleet employed on behalf of helping people can be characterized as "limo-aide."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Flat is always the chauffeur for his limo, in which he sometimes transports Brooks co-workers.

Flat chauffeurs himself around base and throughout the metropolitan area. He has become quite adept at negotiating vehicles that are over 20 feet long.

"I've been charged for double parking at the rodeo," admits Flat who has learned the 'ins and outs' of



Be someone's hero... Give through CFC.



The Combined Federal Campaign at Brooks has reached the half-way point. Here's how the numbers stack up:

- Brooks has reached 54 percent of its \$253,000 goal — raising \$136,828.
- The Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence is at \$42,907 — 87 percent of its goal.
- The 311th Human Systems Program Office raised \$26,996 — 94 percent of its goal.
- The 311th Human Systems Wing staff has raised \$15,806 — 132 percent of its goal.
- The CFC runs through Nov. 13 at Brooks.

First lady touts 'Troops to Teachers' program

By Brett Turner

Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) — The birthplace of aviation became a launching pad for new career possibilities Oct. 16 as first lady Laura Bush spoke about the Defense Department's Troops to Teachers program.

Bush recognized educators and the potential roles departing military members can play in education during a rally attended by nearly 1,300 people.

As a former teacher, Bush's enthusiasm for the program was evident. "Our children are the future," she said. "Ensuring that they have the best education possible and the chance to realize their dreams is our greatest obligation. As soldiers, you pledged yourself to duty, honor and country — and your service will never be forgotten."

"Today, I ask you to pledge yourselves to our children, the future of this country. I ask our retiring men and women to answer a new call, the call to teach."

Troops to Teachers is a program that assists select people who want to begin a career in public education upon departing the military. It began in 1994, and nearly 4,000 veterans have been hired into the nation's schools since.

Last January, the program was authorized to continue for five more years through the No Child Left Behind Act. An estimated 2 million new teachers will be needed in the next decade.

Three teachers, Eusebio Bretado Jr. of El Paso, Texas; William Byrd of Madison, Ala.; and Michael Glaze of Beaufort, S.C.; are successful examples of Troops to Teachers. Each received "Excellence in Teaching" awards at the rally.

Two Dayton school teachers, Greg Powell and Melvin Early, are Air Force retirees who left Wright-Patterson and went into Troops to Teachers. They are the types of role

models being sought for the program, said Bush.

"And Wright-Patterson has no shortage of them," she said. "Members of the military have always been tremendous role models — you possess the greatest in character, commitment and resolve. And today, our children need those qualities more than ever."

Bush said Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was an easy choice for the presentation.

"We really wanted to be here at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for this event," she said. "I visit a lot of bases around the world, the San Diego Naval Yard, Aviano [Air Base], Italy, and Kosovo to talk to troops about when they retire from the military to continue to serve their country as teachers. Today we heard some really wonderful stories about teachers in the Ohio area. We really picked Ohio today because of Wright-Patt."

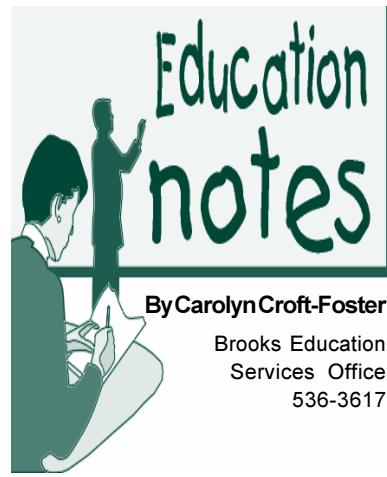
Teaching may not be for everyone, Bush said. It can be trying and takes patience. Those who think it is about having summers and holidays off could be surprised, she said.

"I think really good teachers are people who know that they really want to help people," Bush said. "And if you know you want to help people and work well with people, that's what teaching's all about. And I think you can probably become a pretty good teacher."

Bush is heavily involved in promoting several educational programs as well as reading programs in the country. She taught second, third and fourth grades in Texas, and earned a graduate degree in library science and worked as a school librarian.

Bush said she missed the work. She also admitted it was not always easy, but added there were not many professions as rewarding as teaching when you succeed.

"Those years were very satisfying," she said. "Teaching might be very difficult, but there's also never a boring moment when you have 20 little kids around you all the time."



By Carolyn Croft-Foster

Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

UTSA On-Base classes

UTSA is teaching three courses at Brooks in the Spring 2003 semester: Human Biology; Physiology (AHS 2103-003), Biosocial Genetics (BIO 3083-002), and Wavelets and Their Applications (MAT 6973). Deadline for admission for the Spring semester is Dec. 1. Students can start the pro-

cess by visiting the website at: www.utsa.edu/visitor/index.htm, or contact Clyde Phelix for more information about the Brooks courses at: cphelix@utsa.edu or by calling 458-4430. For more information, contact the Education Services Office at 536-3618.

ERA University

The Embry-Riddle Aerospace University representative visits Brooks every other Wednesday morning. To schedule an appointment to review graduate and bachelor's degree options, call 536-3618.

ACCD Spring 2003 registration

The Alamo Community College District begins Spring 2003 registration Nov. 18. On-base classes include Speech, Art Appreciation, Computer Literacy, Freshman English,

Algebra, U.S. History I, Music Appreciation, and Philosophy. Tuition Assistance covers the full cost of tuition for Alamo Community College District classes. Students need to request tuition assistance 48 hours prior to registration. The ACCD representative visits Brooks each Tuesday. To schedule an appointment, call 536-3617.

St. Mary's University

St. Mary's offers graduate courses at Randolph Air Force Base in Business Administration, Computer Information Systems and Engineering Systems Management. The programs are 36 semester hours. Classes are offered in eight-week sessions, two nights a week. Early registration for the Spring term begins Nov. 4. For admission or general information about graduate programs offered through St. Mary's, call 658-4852.

Active-duty members can increase GI Bill

Active-duty military members, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5400 for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month.

Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while the participant is on active duty. This is not a pay reduction; therefore, there is not a tax savings.

This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985, and elected to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill. This MGIB feature is NOT open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP

Convertees. For more information, call 536-3618.

Tuition assistance

The new DoD tuition assistance policy that pays 100 percent of tuition for off-duty courses is available to Air Force personnel. The policy became effective Oct. 1, and pays tuition costs and mandatory fees up to a maximum of \$250 per semester hour, or \$750 per three-hour course. It also includes a \$4,500-per-year tuition assistance ceiling.

Under the new policy, as long as the total cost falls under the authorized total, the student has no out-of-pocket expense for tuition. However, tuition assistance cannot be used to pay for textbooks unless they are included in an academic institution's published tuition rates.

Contact Education Services for more information.



BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Youth Activities Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

— The annual Turkey Trot is scheduled for Nov. 9, beginning at 3 p.m. The cost is \$3 and includes games and prizes. Youth can participate in the Oreo Stack, Bubble Races, Trivia Quiz and more. First-place winners in all age groups receive a frozen turkey and everyone who participates receives a prize.

— It's once again time for the annual Airmen's Cookie Drive. Support the Cookie Drive by providing baked goods that can be wrapped individually. Teens will deliver the goodies Nov. 20 to unaccompanied airmen in the dormitories. Let's make them feel an important part of the Brooks family. Baked items should be delivered to the Youth Center Nov. 19 so they can be prepared for delivery. Fill out a form and drop it off at the center in advance to help the staff plan the total number of baked items to be delivered.

— The Youth Center is taking registrations for Fall Day Camp scheduled

for Nov. 19-21. Register at the center Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Contact Feletia McLaurin for more information.

— Registrations are being accepted for the 2003 Brooks Youth Basketball season for children ages 5-17 years. Brooks' youth will participate in a league with Lackland Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston as part of the Pizza Hut Spurs Drug Free basketball league, presented by Ultramar Diamond Shamrock. The registration fee is \$35 for current center members and \$50 for non-members. Non-Department of Defense personnel are authorized to participate on a space available basis. For more information contact Larry Flores, Brooks' youth sports director, at 536-8130.

— The Youth Center staff is selling the 2003 Entertainment Book. It includes discounts to local attractions, restaurants, thousands of hotels and more. There are coupons for dining out, informal/carry out food, airfare, car rentals, movies, dry cleaning, car washes, merchandise and services. Books are \$20 each and can be delivered on Brooks. Contact Larry Flores at 536-8130.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Sign-up now for a seat on the party bus to the Houston Music Festival Nov. 9. The concert is at Reliant Stadium in Houston and features Frankie Beverly, Nelly and the St. Lunatics, The Isley Brothers, starring Ron "Mr. Biggs" Isley, Ashanti, The O'Jays, Teena Marie, The Gap Band, Scarface and Mario.

Cost is \$75 per person and includes round-trip transportation and admission to the festival.

The bus departs Brooks at noon Nov. 9, and will leave Houston at midnight to return to Brooks.

Tickets can be purchased through Dennis Chapoy in Outdoor Recreation by calling 536-2881, or from Tony Clay, Services Marketing, at 536-6241. Seats are limited so get

your seat while they last.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

Squadron Challenge XII was rescheduled for Nov. 15, due to inclement weather. Contact the Fitness Center staff with questions or concerns.

Golf Course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636

The Golf Course will be closed Nov. 4-11 for annual overseeding. The snack bar will remain open for daily business.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

A Night Out on the Town is scheduled for Nov. 16 at the Brooks Club. The evening features a dinner buffet from 6 to 8 p.m., and live music by Second Nature from 6 to 11 p.m. This group has proved to be a favorite of guests so don't miss out on the wonderful sounds of jazz and rhythm and blues. Tickets are \$10 each for club members and \$12.50 for non-club members. Call for more details.

Premiere Designs

Bldg. 1154, 536-8648/2120

During the month of Nov., purchase a baker's dozen of helium-filled balloons for only \$2. Individual balloons can be purchased for 20 cents each. Prices are valid while supply lasts.

Holiday greeting card contest

The Services Division holds the 12th Annual Holiday Greeting Card Contest this year. Cards are displayed in the center median from Military Drive to the front gate for the Brooks community to enjoy. Cards must be registered with Jan McMahon at 536-5475 by Nov. 22. Cards will be in place on or before Nov. 26 and must be removed by close of business Jan. 3. Judging is scheduled for Dec. 6.

Each card must depict a holiday theme, and be no larger than 48" x 96"

including cut-outs and extensions. Cards must be constructed from at least 1/2" exterior plywood, must have solid support, have sandbags inside to provide stability; must use waterproof and fireproof paint and have the organization's name on the front of the card. Each organization is responsible for the purchase of materials, construction, painting, placement, removal and annual storage. No electrical moving parts or lights are allowed for safety reasons.

Winning organizations will be issued checks approximately two weeks after judging. Awards are: 1st-place, \$75; 2nd-place, \$50; 3rd-place, \$25; and two \$10 awards will be given for honorable mention.

Design a Logo contest

The 311th Services Division Marketing Department is planning the City-Base Picnic scheduled for June 20, 2003. The picnic is an opportunity for all military, civilian, and city-base employees to come together, and is open to all employees, and family members to come out for a day of fun, games, and entertainment.

The Marketing Department is offering a \$100 cash prize to the individual(s) who create a theme and logo for the picnic. Marketing employees and their family members are ineligible. T-shirts and publicity for the event will feature the winning logo.

The logo should be saved as a JPEG and emailed to vida.marsh@brooks.af.mil by Nov. 15. Contact Vida Marsh at 536-8057 for more information.

Sidney's

Bldg. 714, 536-2077

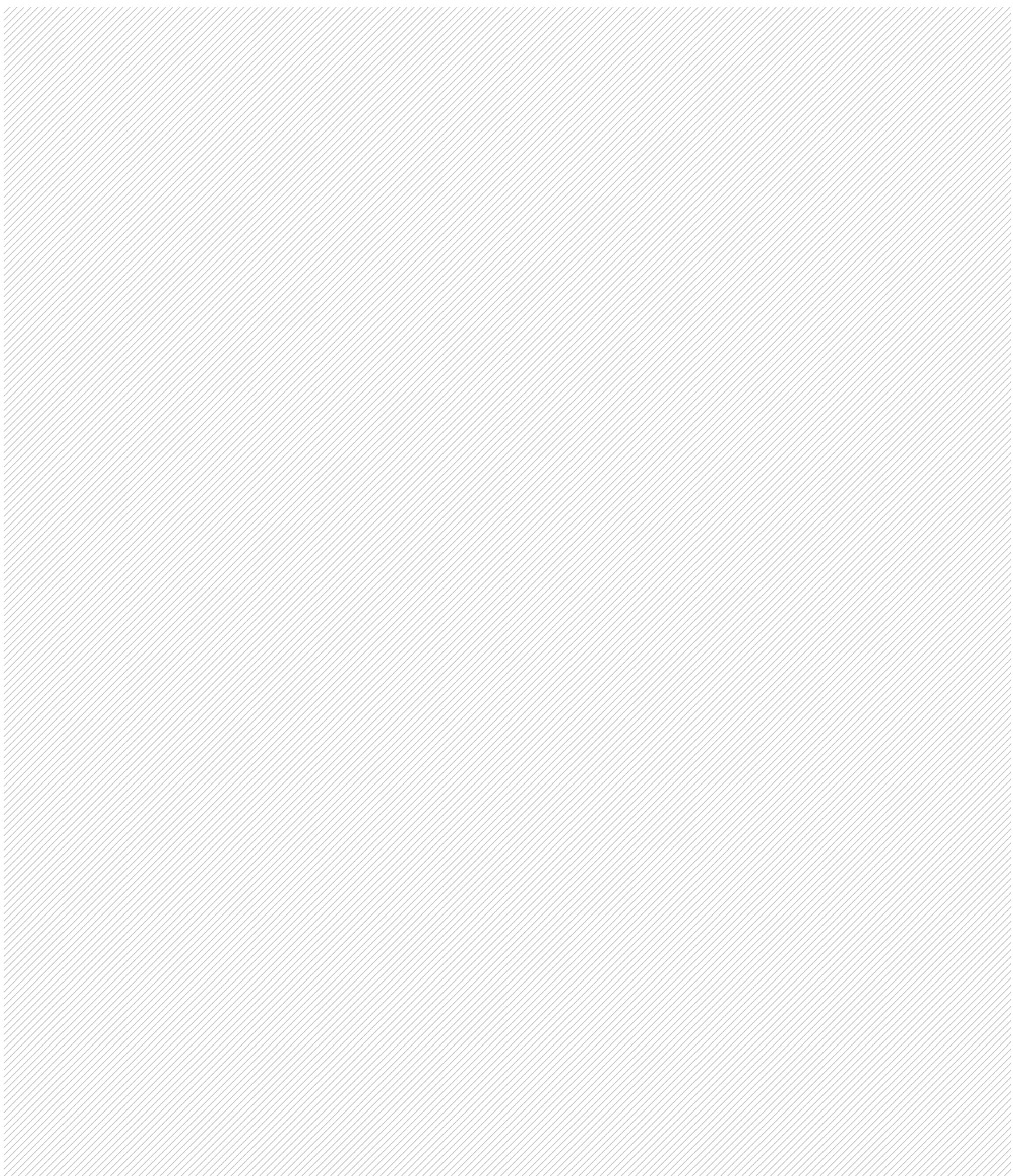
Football Frenzy is back. Club members still have the opportunity to win a trip to a regular season NFL game, the Super Bowl and the Pro Bowl. Fans can watch the games, enter and win prizes at Sidney's.

Join friends for food and football excitement on the big screen television and, as a member, be eligible to win.



DISCOVERY
Nov. 1, 2002

23





NEWS briefs

Brooks seeks '03 ambassadors

The Office of Public Affairs is accepting applications for Brooks ambassadors in 2003. Application packages are available for pick-up in Bldg. 150. For details about the ambassador program or for more information, contact Ed Shannon at 536-5140, or by email at: ed.shannon@brooks.af.mil. Registration deadline is noon, Nov. 8.

Phone book recycling

Due to late arrival of new telephone books to some City-Base organizations, the deadline to drop off old phone books for recycling was extended to Nov. 7. The large blue recycling bin is located near the red picnic pavilion, adjacent to Bldgs. 643 and 1155. The blue bin is for phone books only. No trash or other recyclable material is allowed. To those who already dropped off their old phone books, thanks for helping the environment and for helping lower Brooks' waste disposal costs. Contact Andrew Riley at 536-6719 for more information.

AAFES advisory council

A new AAFES Advisory Council is being established to better serve the Brooks community. The AAFES District Manager and Brooks BXtra Manager will attend a meeting Nov. 21 from 10-11 a.m. at the Brooks Club to hear the community's feedback. A representative from each organization is encouraged to attend, including private organizations on base. If you have questions, comments or concerns about AAFES services, please attend the meeting.

Altitude test subjects

Altitude test subjects needed: Help provide F-22 pilots, high altitude parachute personnel, high altitude reconnaissance pilots and astronauts with adequate equipment and procedures to accomplish their missions without distraction or hazard resulting from exposure to altitude. Several research protocols are being conducted at the High Altitude Protection Laboratory at Brooks to accomplish this mission. Hypobaric (altitude) chamber test subjects can earn \$150 per month for participating in at least one session per month. Each subject must meet Air Force body fat or height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 18 and 50 years of age, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam. Contact Heather Alexander at 536-3440 or Jim Carlile at 536-3546 for more information.

Sleep study participants

The Chronobiology and Sleep Laboratory at Brooks needs volunteers to participate in a number of ongoing sleep research studies. Interested Air Force and civilian personnel who meet the necessary qualifications are eligible to receive compensation starting at \$10 per hour. Contact Laura Sanchez at 536-3616 for additional information, or visit the website at: www.ntiinc.com and link to "studies."

Civilian awards program changes

Several changes have been made to the nomination process for the Brooks Civilian Quarterly Awards program to simplify the process and

shorten the nomination narrative. Quarterly nominations are now limited to a total of 25 lines, and annual nominations are limited to a maximum of one page. Nominations should address the following headings: contributions to organizational mission and management goals, customer service training, development and self-improvement initiative, and community involvement.

The award periods, eligibility, categories and recognition remain the same. Contact Dana Chryar at 536-3663 or by email at: dana.chryar@brooks.af.mil for more information on the civilian awards program.

San Antonio Cruiser Sailors

The San Antonio Cruiser Sailors Chapter of the U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association is trying to locate all cruiser crewmembers living in the San Antonio area.

Monthly meetings promote comradeship and the spinning of war stories. Meetings are open to prior or current military personnel in all branches of service and are held locally. Cruiser crewmembers or interested parties may contact Jim Patin Sr., at 656-4410 for more information on meetings.

Semi-annual selective reenlistment bonus review

The semi-annual review of all Air Force Specialty Codes begins in December, with results anticipated in January. The focus is on manning levels, retention trends, training costs, and career field manager's inputs regarding the effects of on-go-

ing or future force structure changes. All reenlistment-eligible members, defined as members who have a date of separation one year or less away from the projected reenlistment date, are selected for reassignment/retainability required and the commander has selected them, must be aware of this information prior to re-enlisting. If members can delay their reenlistment, they must be provided the opportunity to do so. Although the Air Force Personnel Center plans to announce the review results in January, if they are delayed, it could affect members' reenlistment plans.

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-2606, paragraph 2.16.1, airmen serving in SRB skills announced for reduction or termination, who are reenlistment eligible must reenlist before the effective date of the termination or reduction to receive the bonus at the previous rate. There is normally a 30-day window between the the dates. Due to the short notice Jan. 17 release, members were authorized to petition the Board for Correction of Military records to request their reenlistment date be changed in order to take advantage of a higher SRB. Members will not have that opportunity with this release. If they choose not to delay their reenlistment until after the review, changes will not be allowed.

Any member who has reenlisted prior to the release of the message is not eligible to have their reenlistment declared erroneous and re-enlist at a later date.

For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. Sharon Portell in Reinlistments and Extensions by calling 536-6978 or, reach her by email at sharon.portell@brooks.af.mil.



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

Transition assistance

8 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 5-7, Bldg. 537 —

Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation, resume writing, interviewing skills, including appropriate dress, veteran's benefits and more. Members should plan to attend at least 180 days prior to separation or retirement.

Sponsor training

10 a.m.-11 a.m., Nov. 12, Bldg. 537 —

In accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3011, sponsor training is required for all first-time sponsors and those who haven't sponsored within the past year. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn about tools and resources available to sponsors.

Mutual funds seminar

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 13, Bldg. 537 —

This is one of a series of investment classes that prepare the beginning investor with: basic investment terms, fundamental investment principles, what mutual funds are, how mutual funds operate, and how to start investing in a mutual fund, different types of stocks and bonds, and other aspects of investing. Attend this workshop to find out how you can start investing in your future.

Veteran's benefits assistance

8 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays, Bldg. 537 — Do you have questions about your VA benefits or need assistance filling out your VA claims? A VA representative is on-site every Wednesday to provide consultations, medical record screening and assistance with medical claims, by appointment only. Two copies of medical records are required. Call 536-2444 to schedule an appointment.

Common sense parenting

11 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, Bldg. 618 — This six-week class is hosted by the Life Skills Support Center, Family Advocacy Program and the Family Support Center. It's a program designed to teach parent skills that will encourage positive behavior, discourage negative behavior and teach alternatives to problem behavior. Topics include setting clear expectations, positive and negative consequences for behavior, staying calm and teaching self-control, effective praise, preventive and corrective teaching, helping children make decisions and more.

Contact the Brooks' Family Support Center staff at 536-2444 for details and information on the many different classes and programs that are available to the Brooks' community.



Brooks' golf champion on pace to becoming a legend

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

It didn't take a stroke of genius to convince 2nd Lt. Linda Jeffrey that her golf stroke is extraordinary. All it took for her to succeed, however, was an early realization that she was destined to play this game well.

After helping the U.S. Armed Forces golf team win the military version of the Ryder Cup in 2002, this three-time college All-American golfer has demonstrated a quality of play symbolized by the popular brand name product from the sport in which she excels: "Top Flight."

"I never played golf before. They needed someone to play on the varsity team," recalls Jeffrey about her early days in a sport that she adopted as an Abilene High School undergraduate. It didn't take much to convince her to play golf because Jeffrey had admired former Ladies Professional Golf Association star Nancy Lopez who put women's professional golf on the national map with a sensational rookie season in 1977.

"She was my hero. I modeled my play after her," admits Jeffrey. She credits Lopez's career for helping jumpstart women's interest in golf that has since exploded in popularity among lady golfers.

The future 311th Mission Support Group executive officer never regretted her decision to wedge in golf between her two primary high school sports that she also lettered in: soccer and softball. She attributes part of her initial success in golf to her powerful softball swing.

Relying on her trademark "flying elbow" follow-through golf swing, this natural athlete began piling up high school honors. In each of her last three years, she was named All-District and earned her

team's Most Valuable Player Award.

"I earned a golf scholarship to Tarleton State University, but after one semester there the school cancelled its golf program," admits Jeffrey.

Undaunted by the setback, she eventually benefited from a "stroke of luck" by returning to her hometown to play golf at Hardin-Simmons University.

Prior to the fall semester, Jeffrey had significantly improved her golf game during the summer while living with her sister in Ohio.

"Every day I played the tough Wright-Patterson Air Force Base course. It really sharpened my game."

Her Hardin-Simmons colleagues were grateful that she had honed her game before playing for the varsity team. Her sparkling play helped them win their first women's National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championship in 1994.

"I always finished in the top five in all the tournaments I played in. In my senior year, I lost only one tournament out of five, and that loss was in sudden death," said Jeffrey, who was the number one golfer at Hardin-Simmons for three years.

Besides her selection as both a National Collegiate Athletics Association and NAIA All-American, her perfect 4.0 grade point average earned her academic All-American status and Summa cum laude honors.

At graduation in 1996, Jeffrey had no intention of pursuing a military career. What she wanted to do was play golf.

"I went to live with my sister at Grand Forks Air Force Base, (N.D.) I worked at a golf course as the pro," she said.

The North Dakota move was a turning point in Jeffrey's life. She met her future husband Dave, an Air Force major. They

Sports



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Three-time All-American 2nd Lt. Linda Jeffrey demonstrates her championship swing, which helped lead the Armed Forces golf team to its first world title recently.

were married on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 1996.

While she didn't get her idea "to fly" from the way she launched golf balls, Jeffrey had always wanted to fly an airplane. She got her chance to become a military pilot when she earned an Air Force ROTC commission at Southwest Texas State University in December 2000.

"My husband was very supportive," she said of her spouse who by then had transferred to Randolph AFB. She eventually discovered that she "liked flying, but did not love it."

Jeffrey transferred from Laughlin AFB, Texas, to Brooks in November 2001.

Once here, she immediately resumed her golf career. Two years earlier, Jeffrey had

regained her U.S. Golf Association amateur status.

In May 2002, Jeffrey played in the U.S. Golf Association Women's Open Qualifier in Houston. A month later, she competed in the San Antonio Women's Golf Tournament.

"I finished fourth. Some of those college girls were shooting in the 60s," she lamented. Jeffrey's best score ever was a 67 in a tournament in Phoenix, Ariz.

Naturally, Jeffrey made the Brooks varsity golf team. At the Air Force Materiel Command tournament, she became the women's division champion. She made the Air Force golf team at Luke AFB Ariz., where she fired rounds of 70, 73, 73 and 70 on a par 71 course. She was the top lady

golfer at the Armed Forces Championship at Fort Bliss, Texas, earning her a spot on the U.S. Armed Forces team, one of only four women on the 14-member squad.

Jeffrey saved her best play for the world military championship called the Counsel International Du Sport Militaire. "I didn't lose any matches in four days," she said. The U.S. team defeated South Africa and Canada for the world title.

While Jeffrey has no plans for a future pro career, she is committed to her version of "climbing the Mount Everest of golf."

"I want to defend my title," she confesses about her competitive zeal which to her is "par for the course."



Change of heart revives Brooks' varsity men's hoop program

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Their collective "change of heart" does not suggest they've had transplants, but rather indicates the existence of an important vital sign needed to revive the Brooks varsity men's basketball program.

While many naysayers last season were eager to write this team's epitaph as a talented group of under-achievers, their coach saw in them potential greatness as future champions.

While it is very early in the pre-season, the Brooks squad's gutsy performance Oct. 18 at Sheppard Air Force Base validated coach Hosea Talbert's belief in them. Before a very hostile crowd in Abilene, Texas, Brooks engineered a stunning, come-from-behind 89-81 victory.

Significantly contributing to their first pre-season win was the team's demonstrated ability to stay focused and not be intimidated.

"After the first five minutes of erratic play, I called a time out," recalls Talbert who advised his players not to let the other team dictate how they played. He also told them to trust their instincts and each other to make plays that they knew would work.

Talbert confessed, "After that time out, it was like a light came on (in their heads). They (instantly) became aggressive on defense. When (Armond) Bailey got into foul trouble, (Desmond) Fahe replaced him. His performance was a 'beauty to behold'."

The players' determination became infectious, spreading throughout the roster from starters to reserves. By the time the game was over, the Sheppard team and its fans hadn't fully understood what had hit them. Talbert knew, and so did his players, that the Brooks squad had arrived that day as a legitimate contender.

Two weeks earlier during a scrimmage against Randolph AFB, Talbert saw the first faint signs of life in the heart of a team that does not want to experience the anguish and humiliation of another losing season.

"They still have that sick feeling in their gut from losing last year. Winning creates confidence, but a winning attitude creates a winning program," said Talbert.

That winning attitude was missing from last year's squad, contributing to Brooks not advancing past the Air Force Materiel Command tournament's first round. Besides not believing in themselves, last year's squad did not fully adjust to Talbert, their third coach in less than two years.

"I told them it ain't no democracy. It's my way or the highway if



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks' men's varsity coach Hosea Talbert works with a member of the team. Talbert is sure they have the ability to win a championship.

they want to be a championship team," Talbert said.

While he planted the seeds for success last season, Talbert's proven winning methods are only now starting to take root in a squad willing to accept his leadership and vision for the team.

"My main job is to bring the talent together, get them focused and motivated. Last year, they did not execute the talent they had as a combined unit. They (now) know they are better than most teams in the city."

Talbert senses a change in the players, attributing it to team continuity.

"The difference this year is I started (coaching the team) from the beginning," says Talbert, referring to last year in which he became coach in mid-season and did not have time to build the program. His mission to bring Brooks its first AFMC men's basketball championship has not changed. He is as determined as ever. Now, he has his players starting to believe in themselves and in their ultimate goal of winning a championship.

"I have given more responsibilities to my assistant coach George Clark and to my three team captains," Talbert said, explaining that they and other veterans are charged with helping the younger players develop their skills and court savvy.

This year's team consists mostly of veteran players and a few rookies. "We have a more balanced (offensive) attack," Talbert said referring to co-captains Rob Taylor at power forward and Robert Garcia at point guard. They scored 27 and 20 points, respectively, against Sheppard. Other starters include co-captain Colby Benjamin at off-guard, and forwards William Pyles and Armond Bailey. Fahe, who Talbert describes as his 'sixth man,' is a team sparkplug along with 'Bad, Bad' Leroy Brown. Other returning players that Talbert says will make significant contributions are J.D. Dumes, Leo Funchess, David King, Jesus Ontiveros and William Lawrence.

"I don't care what others have said. I believe in my heart that this is the year we will win a championship. Disappointments may get us down, but they'll make us work even harder," Talbert said.

68th IOS's 'dream season' may continue in playoffs as flag football league champ

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Few intramural flag football squads in Brooks sports history has had the kind of dream season that the 68th Information Operations Squadron team has had so far. After winning their first league championship in stunning fashion, they are hopeful that their post-season experience in the upcoming base championship tournament will be just as thrilling.

"It is going to be much more difficult in the playoffs. Our biggest thrill so far was beating AFIERA. I want to face them again," said Reggie Smith, who coached the 68th IOS to a perfect 5-0 regular season record highlighted by their last-minute upset win of the two-time defending Brooks flag football base champions.

The Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis squad, led by their wily player-coach Aaron Sinclair, appeared to have won the showdown contest for the league title. Undefeated AFIERA was leading 18-8 with about seven minutes remaining in the last game of the season when the 68th mounted an incredible come-from-behind victory drive. They capped their 22-18 win with a fourth and goal touchdown.

"It was a bang-bang play," recalls Smith, describing how rookie quarterback Blake Socin hit rookie halfback Tim Heggedahl with a quick TD pass on a rollout to the left. With less than two minutes remaining, AFIERA roared back to their opponent's 20-yard line, but did not score.

"That made my day," Smith said gleefully, referring to having finally beaten Sinclair's squad in a big game. For years AFIERA has found countless ways to break the hearts of their gridiron opponents, especially when there was a championship on the line.

Particularly galling for AFIERA was the realization that they did not predict this happening to them. Sinclair's pre-season prognostications favored a showdown with the heavily talented I.C.E. (Intensity, Concentration and Execution) squad that featured semi-pro quarterback Ronald Hennessey and the 'fastest human on Brooks' Terry Rivers.

AFIERA tried to adjust to the 68th offense by double-teaming rookie sensation Paul Robinson, a split end and former junior college tight end. However, AFIERA's defensive strategy failed against a club of budding stars led by 23-year-old Socin, a smart quarterback who threw only one interception all year. "He knows when to run or not to run. He made only a few mistakes during the season," admits Smith. Socin's one interception came against AFIERA, but was not exploited. Heggedahl, the team's backup quarterback who played both halfback and free safety, supplied plenty of trouble for AFIERA and the rest of the league. "He is a lanky guy with excellent hands," his coach said, noting that Heggedahl is physically unimposing but has very deceptive moves.

Smith admits that he had a smile on his face after a few pre-season practices, saying, "We have some talent on this team. I felt we would be competitive." His 10-man squad featuring seven rookies quickly blended into a

cohesive unit. They also overcame the perennial problem of not having enough players to field a team due to the organization's shift work schedule.

"We were not favored to win. I am happy to make the playoffs," Smith said. Tentatively scheduled for this week, the single elimination base tournament's opening round will pit No. 1 seed 68th against fourth-seeded ABG, and AFIERA against I.C.E.

Pre-season favorite I.C.E. hopes to play up to their expectations in the post-season after posting a disappointing 3-2 regular season record. "AFIERA was our biggest challenge during the season," said Terry Rivers, I.C.E.'s second-year receiver/cornerback, noting that it will be tough getting passed them in the opening round.

I.C.E. had some difficulty meshing as a team, despite their obvious talent. "It took awhile for us to get our continuity together," Rivers said, explaining that their star quarterback had to learn how to adjust from semi-professional tackle football to learning "on-the-fly" flag football plays.

While Rivers was one of the team's leaders in touchdowns, wide receiver and free safety Joe Brown led the squad in receptions. "They double-teamed me a lot. I was used mostly as a decoy," admits Rivers.

History suggests that AFIERA will be even more dangerous in the post-season, relying on their star Robert Taylor who did not play against the 68th IOS.

Final League Standings:

68th IOS	5-0
AFIERA	4-1
I.C.E.	3-2
MSG	3-2
YA	1-4
PK	0-5

SPORTS SHORTS

Evans' golf tournament today at noon

Due to inclement weather, the golf tournament in honor of Command Chief Master Sgt. Darlin "Big E" Evans' retirement, originally scheduled for Oct. 24, takes place today at the Brooks' Golf Course. Teams of four compete in the Florida Scramble, beginning with a shotgun start at noon. Cost is \$30 per person and includes fees, golf cart, and a package containing two mulligans, two throws and three feet of string.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place, longest drive and closest to the hole. Registration and a barbecue luncheon begin at 11 a.m. at the base picnic area, pavilion 2. Contact Chief Master Sgt. Voreda Slone at 536-1552 or Master Sgt. Daniel Radke at 536-3018 for more information.





U.S. Air Force Academy mascot vying for national title

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — He doesn't have the pageantry of the Indian on the horse with the flaming spear, the "homeliness" of that dog from Tennessee, or the in-your-face attitude of that "other" bird in South Florida.

He lacks the tradition of the guy in the leprechaun suit, the ability to pull a wagon like that Oklahoma pony, and the raw power of that big ole Colorado ox.

But, there is one thing the Air Force Academy's mascot has that the rest do not. The "Bird," as he is commonly referred to in Colorado Springs, possesses a firm grip on second place in the Mascot of the Year contest, sponsored by Capital One Bank. And he is very quickly gaining ground on the pussycat from Penn State.

As of Oct. 24, the Bird had captured 35 percent of the vote during the contest, a close second behind Penn State University's "The Nittany Lion," who has 36 percent. A distant third was "Sebastian the Ibis" from the University of Miami with 21 percent.

Capital One spokeswoman Pam Girado said the contest is a good way to recognize the team mascots, who she called the "unsung heroes" of college sporting events.

"Each year the best college football players are named to the All-America teams, and for the first time, college mascots will have their own team," she said.

"Mascots have a passion and energy that keeps thousands of

college football fans screaming and yelling and coming back each week for great football."

In addition to the USAFA, PSU and UM, the 12 finalists for this year's crown include the mascots from the University of Florida, the University of Tennessee, the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Alabama, Western Kentucky University, Georgia Tech University, the University of Montana, Syracuse University and the University at Buffalo.

First Lt. Chris Backus, cheerleading coach, said the Bird plays a key role in establishing the right atmosphere at academy games.

"Sometimes it can get really intense during the game," he said. "The Bird adds a little levity to the situation. He's big crowd favorite, especially with the kids."

Tryouts are held each year to determine which academy student will don the uniform and perform before thousands on Saturdays, he added.

"We hold tryouts at the beginning of the year for new mascots, and we judge them on creativity," he said.

"They do a skit, and have to have a specific walk and mannerisms. You don't want someone who doesn't look like the bird."

If the team's performance is any indication, this year's selectee is obviously doing something right.

The Falcons were 6-1 going into the Oct. 26 game at Wyoming, and need only a win Nov. 9 at Army to wrap up the Commander in Chief's Trophy, recognizing the top team among the military academies.

The 12 members of the Capital One All-America Mascot Team were selected from among entries received from 238 eligible schools that feature a football team. A panel of



Air Force photo

The Bird, the U.S. Air Force Academy's team mascot, basks in the arms of his greatest fans. He currently is running a close second in voting for Mascot of the Year.

five judges from Capital One, ESPN, and the mascot community selected the 12 team members based on interaction with fans and demonstration of the mascot's originality;

ability to create enthusiasm among the fans, and contribution to an exhilarating atmosphere; originality, creativity and professionalism of mascot appearance or costume; demonstration of good sportsmanship; and involvement in community service.

Fans across the country can vote for their favorite mascot through real-time, online polling at: www.capitalonebowl.com.

Everyone is eligible to vote but each person is allowed to cast only one vote during the 2002 competition. In cases of multiple votes, fraud, or abuse, Capital One reserves

the right to eliminate all votes cast.

Eligible votes are those received between 8:30 a.m. Oct. 10, and 5 p.m. Dec. 20. Votes received after 5 p.m. Dec. 20 will not be counted.

The National Mascot of the Year will be selected from the 12 members based upon the final standing of the 12 mascots after the original judging that selected the members and the results of the online poll.

Each of the team members receives \$5,000 to use toward scholarships for his or her school's mascot program and the National Mascot of the Year will receive a total of \$10,000.

(The Air Force Academy Public Affairs Office contributed to this story)